INDIAN INSTITUTE OXFORD

COPIES OF PAPERS

RELATIVE TO THE

Restoration of the KING of TANJORE,

THE

Arrest of the Right Hon. GEORGE LORD PIGOT,

AND THE

Removal of his LORDSHIP from the Government of FORT ST. GEORGE, by sundry Members of the Council.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

Containing Letters from different Persons respecting the above Transactions, and sundry other Papers received since the First Volume was printed.

Printed in the Year MDCCLXXVII.

SOC. REG. ASIATICA BRITANNIAE

* Letter from Alexander Dalrymple, Esquire, to the Court of Directors, dated, Alexandria, 19th January 1777, and received over-land 17th March 1777.

To the Honorable the Court of Directors of the East-India Company.

HONORABLE,

I WROTE from Cairo the 14th, enclosing a Copy of Lord Pigot's Letter to you of the 9th October, by which you will perceive that I came to Suez in the Swallow sloop of war, to give your Honors the earliest and fullest intelligence of the state of your affairs on the Coast of Coromandel. I expected to have taken my passage for Marseilles immediately from hence, where I arrived this morning; but, much to my surprize, I was joined on the road by a guard, who conducted me and my baggage to the Commandant's House, and after detaining me several hours and examining in the minutest manner all my things, which they have sealed up till orders are received from Cairo, let me out, on the assurance of M. Brandi, an Italian gentleman, acting Consul here for the Northern Powers and Naples, that he would be responsible I did not leave the place before those Answers came. The reason assigned for this proceeding is, that on our departure from Suez the Bashaw's officers there put seals on our trunks, &c. On our arrival at Cairo, Mr. Baldwin said it was what he had no right to do, and desired them to be opened. Colonel Capper having opened his hand-escrutore, I was induced to open mine also, being apprehensive that the great rains we had in the journey from Suez to Cairo might have damaged the papers, and solicitous to transmit to your Honors the contents of the packet above-mentioned before my departure. Opening these packages is made the pretext for this embargo, as they suppose valuable effects have been removed; and they assented to our departure from Cairo, in hopes that those imaginary treasures would be replaced, and fall into their hands on a search here. What may be the

* Since the receipt of this Letter a Duplicate has been received, with variations and additions; also with a Memorandum, or Postscript, which is hereunto annexed.

result of their disappointment time must determine. Mr. Baldwin, by a letter just now received, intimates, that he sees no likelihood of matters being accommodated but for a much larger sum than I can authorize him to give; and your packets, as well as every other paper, remain at present, sealed up by Mr. Brandi, in possession of this Government. This circumstance must be my excuse for being less explicit in regard to the state of your affairs on the Coast of Coromandel; but I write this for your information, in case any accident should happen further to us.

2. The execution of your orders for restoring Tanjore to the Rajah, though grounded on justice and good policy, and highly honorable to the nation, was extremely disgusting to the Nabob, as the acquisition of that kingdom had long been the favourite object of his pursuit, that being almost the only Gentoo Government in the Carnatic; the Nabob having, on various pretences, rooted out the others since Lord Pigot's former administration, and by these means increased his revenues above L. 350,000 per annum. The Nabob could not be prevailed on to give his consent to the restitution; in which it is said he was encouraged by Sir Robert Fletcher's assurances, that Lord Pigot dared not carry the Company's orders into execution without his, the Nabob's, consent. However, after much delay, it was determined, nemine contradicente, to carry the orders into effect without his concurrence; and it was unanimously resolved in Council, that it was necessary and proper for the President to proceed to Tanjore in person, to carry the Company's orders into execution, by restoring the Rajah to the Government of his country. Accordingly Lord Pigot left Madrass the end of March, effected the business, and returned the beginning of May.

3. On our return Lord Pigot's conduct met with the approbation of the Council; Sir Robert Fletcher having gone away on pretence of indisposition, after concurring in accepting the sum offered by the Rajah for the defence of his country. Some of the other Members excepted to his Lordship's proceedings concerning the Dobbeer; and Mr. Mackay also to the punishment his Lordship had ordered to be inflicted on a Madrass Dubash,

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named Comera, who, the Rajah complained, had intruded himſelf into his preſence, when gone to ſleep, the very night of our arrival, telling him Lord Pigot would recommend to him to put his country under the Company's protection, and require an Engliſh garriſon to be kept in the fort; but adviſing him to be firm in refuſing theſe propoſitions, and to reply, that he would govern his country as his father had done, and protect it with his own troops; and aſſuring the Rajah he (Comera) was ſupported by ſeven Members of the Council. Every head of the Reſolutions of the Council it appeared this man had been made acquainted with, and adviſed the Rajah to oppoſe, offering to ſupply him any ſum of money he might want. It was ſuſpected the Nabob had employed him as an emiſſary, to counſel the Rajah to his deſtruction. Lord Pigot cut his machinations very ſhort, by ordering him to be chabucked on the public parade.

4. This man had been the inſtrument employed in bringing on the Rajah's misfortunes; the ſtory I heard at Tanjore, and informed Lord Pigot, who aſked the Rajah, and was aſſured that it was fact, at leaſt the moſt material circumſtances, the Rajah only reciting to his Lordſhip what he himſelf knew: perhaps writing from memory I may err in ſome trivial circumſtances, but the general ſubſtance is too ſtrongly imprinted on my memory to be forgotten.

5. The Nabob having, on various pretences, got the Adminiſtration to embark in the expedition againſt Tanjore in Mr. Dupré's government; and his ſon having then (in 1771) whilſt our army lay before Tanjore, concluded a treaty with the Rajah; by this treaty the Rajah engaged to pay, including preſents, 52 Lacks of Rupees: he accordingly, having borrowed money, and pledged part of his jewels with the Dutch, paid 40 Lacks in two years. The Nabob, ſtill ſolicitous to get Tanjore, repreſented at Madraſs, that the Rajah did not mean to pay the money he had engaged. As ſoon as the Rajah heard this, being very much alarmed at the idea of the Nabob's intending to bring the Engliſh againſt him, he ſent for Comera, who happened to be then at Tanjore, being concerned in

lending

lending money on mortgages in that country. The Rajah told him his fears, and asked him if he could give him bills payable at Madrass for the 12 Lacks which remained due; Comera assured him he would, and received a valuable present in consequence of his giving a bill on his master Mr. Benfield. The Rajah transmitted this bill to the Nabob, and sent a Vackeel, with two fine horses, some jewels, and other presents, to the Nabob, together with a letter, expressing, that as he had now discharged his engagements, he hoped to be received into favour. Before the Rajah dispatched the bill, he sent for Comera, and interrogated him if the money would certainly be paid; he assured him it would, and swore upon milk, which is a solemn attestation amongst them, in testimony of the truth of what he said.

6. The Nabob stopped Comera in his way to Madrass; and having settled with him, when the Vackeel was received, in presence of all the other Vackeels from the country princes, the Nabob flew out into a violent rage, abusing the Rajah for a rascal, and appealing to all the Vackeels, declaring he had received no bill, and that this was only a knavish trick of the Rajah. The Vackeel, struck with astonishment, declared the bill was given by Comera on Mr. Benfield; and Comera being produced, vowed he knew nothing of the matter, and that he had given no bill. This was one of the arguments urged for the second siege of Tanjore; at the same time Comera trumped up a story to amuse the Rajah, assuring him, that he had settled every thing with Governor Wynch, and that the Rajah had nothing to fear, at the very time his destruction was determined. The Rajah, before the commencement of the war, wrote to the Governor of Madrass, professing his intentions of adhering to his engagements, and mentioning his having sent this bill on Mr. Benfield. That gentleman, thinking this letter required some notice on his part, wrote a letter to the President and Council, that he thought it necessary to explain what he knew of the matter, as his name was mentioned by the Rajah, though unnecessarily. He observed, that a *black man to the southward, with whom he had some mercantile concerns*, had drawn a bill upon him, without his authority, on the

the ſecurity of a mortgage in the Tanjore country; and that the inſtant he heard of it, he, as a faithful ſervant to the Company, in obedience to their orders, would have nothing to do with it; and that his Highneſs the Nabob was well acquainted with all the circumſtances. This *black man to the ſouthward* was Mr. Benfield's ſervant Comera, and Mr. Benfield now alledges he has mortgages in the Tanjore country to a great amount.

7. Mr. Benfield finding there was an end to all his projects in the Tanjore country, by the reſtoration of that country to the Rajah, and the puniſhment inflicted on Comera, left no ſtone unturned to embarraſs Lord Pigot; and after a Reſolution paſſed the Council, that the Adminiſtration could not interfere in his favour concerning his tranſactions in the Tanjore country; the Nabob's claims of mortgages on that country being inadmiſſible, in conſequence of the Company's orders to reſtore the country to the Rajah; and Mr. Benfield's other claims not being ſufficiently explained; Mr. Benfield, with whom moſt of the Madraſs people are involved, had influence enough to get this Reſolution revoked, the Nabob having conciliated ſome of the Members who had hitherto ſupported his Lordſhip.

8. Nothing followed but continual diſſenſions in Council; there was a conſtant majority againſt Lord Pigot in every thing which concerned the Nabob or Tanjore; and Colonel Stuart having found that Lord Pigot's protection would not be ſo profitable to him as the countenance of the adverſe party, eſtranged himſelf totally from Lord Pigot, and attached himſelf to Mr. Benfield, &c. Colonel Stuart ſoon after his arrival was appointed to the command of Vellour, at the recommendation of Sir Robert Fletcher, who aſſigned ſuch good reaſons for this appointment, that I, as well as others of Lord Pigot's friends, very heartily concurred in the meaſure, although his Lordſhip had mentioned in Council that Colonel Stuart wiſhed to go to the ſouthward. Some time after, when Colonel Stuart had changed his attachments, he wrote a Letter to Sir Robert Fletcher, claiming Tanjore as the moſt important command, although only three companies of Europeans were in that place, and a whole battalion at Vellour; and Sir

Robert Fletcher recommended that he ſhould be accordingly appointed. There was a conſiderable time paſſed between this application and any reſolution upon it; and in the mean while the Rajah having learnt that Colonel Stuart was intended to be ſent down, and very much alarmed that a perſon intimately connected with Mr. Benfield, &c. ſhould be ſent, requeſted that Colonel Harper might be continued in the command. This the Majority abſolutely refuſed, and reſolved that Colonel Stuart ſhould be appointed.

9. Lord Pigot had recommended that a Chief and Council ſhould be eſtabliſhed at Tanjore, which he knew would be very acceptable to the Rajah, and was convinced would be beneficial to the Company. The Majority carried this in the negative; but Mr. Ruſſell was appointed Reſident there without a Council; Mr. Stratton, who had voted againſt the other, voting for this: however, the very day of Mr. Dawſon's departure, that Gentleman having always ſupported Lord Pigot, Mr. Jourdan threw down upon the Conſultation Table a paper, which he ſaid was a Motion about the Committee of Circuit, and Mr. Mackay ſeconded it before it was read, or the contents explained; it was, "That the Committee of Circuit "(of which Mr. Ruſſell was a member) ſhould immediately ſet out." The obvious intention was to prevent Mr. Ruſſell from proceeding to Tanjore, which was become the more neceſſary, from the refuſal of the Majority to grant the Rajah's requeſt to continue Colonel Harper in the command, who was an unexceptionable man, and had always been particularly attentive not to give offence to the Gentoos in their ceremonies and cuſtoms; and the reports which had been ſpread that Lord Pigot was ſhortly to return to England. Lord Pigot thought it neceſſary that a perſon of conſequence ſhould go to Tanjore to remove all the Rajah's apprehenſions, and aſſure him, that he might rely on your Honors protection; and his Lordſhip made choice of Mr. Ruſſell, not only as a perſon likely to gain the Rajah's confidence, but as his appointment would teſtify that his Lordſhip had not loſt all influence in the Council, as was induſtriouſly propagated. Every argument and entreaty his Lordſhip could uſe were in vain; the Majority

jority of the Council repeatedly refused to let Mr. Ruſſell go to Tanjore, even for a few days; and his Lordſhip was, for the reaſons he had repeatedly given, induced to declare, he never would give his aſſent to Colonel Stuart's going until Mr. Ruſſell went. This matter remained long in altercation; but in Auguſt the Majority determined to carry their point, which was become of the more conſequence, from the very extraordinary pains the Nabob had taken to prevent Mr. Ruſſell's appointment; a matter in which, apparently, his intereſt was not in any degree concerned; and it was ſaid Colonel Stuart had undertaken, for a profitable conſideration, to manage Mr. Benfield's concerns, and was to carry a relation of Comera as his Dubaſh.

10. When the matter came into conſideration, Lord Pigot again repeated his requeſt that Mr. Ruſſell might be permitted to go to Tanjore; begging, that as it was in itſelf a matter which could not be of eſſential injury to the Company, they would grant it to his requeſt, if they ſtill continued to think the appointment unneceſsary. However they were inflexible, and gave in ſeparate Minutes in writing, that Colonel Stuart ſhould be ſent with inſtructions, which they expreſſed their approbation of, although thoſe inſtructions had not been read or conſidered at the Council Board. Lord Pigot declared he would not put his name to any inſtructions at that time to Colonel Stuart; and the Majority, probably to conſult with Sir Robert Fletcher, who was not preſent, deſired the Council might be adjourned, as it was a very ſerious matter, and required time to conſider what ſhould be done: this the Preſident readily aſſented to. When the Council again met, his Lordſhip obſerved, that Colonel Stuart's going to Tanjore was not eſſential to the Company's intereſt; he repreſented the many inconveniences that would attend carrying matters further, the difficulty it would lay the officers under, who are ordered to obey the Preſident and his Council by the Commiſſion of Government which conſtitutes him the Governor, and names the ſeveral perſons appointed in Council the better to enable him to manage the affairs of the Company; obſerving, that the tenor of all Commiſſions requires obedience to the Preſident and Council, without any

proviſo

proviso of a *Majority* of Council; he earnestly entreated that it might be left to your Honors' decision, whether the *Majority* could act without the President's concurrence, which he knew from his own experience in forty years service never had been done, and the records of the Company in former times shew was not the original constitution; not to mention the Royal Charter of 1753, constituting the Courts of Justice, in which, in almost every instance where the Council is named, the Governor is expressly required to be *one*. That a President could do nothing against the consent of his Council, but that his concurrence was equally necessary to constitute an act of Government as the consent of the Majority; which concurrence, indeed, a President would in general give, even against his own opinion, as he, by refusing his assent, took the whole responsibility upon himself; but in cases where no essential detriment could happen by his refusal, but much inconvenience might ensue from his assent, it was his duty to withhold it. All he could urge was in vain; and as the mode of their proceeding had been mentioned in the debate of the former day, his Lordship came prepared for all probable events; and when Mr. Stratton and Mr. Brooke put their names to a Letter to the Secretary, to sign Colonel Stuart's instructions *By Order of the Council*, instead of the usual form, *By Order of the President and Council*, his Lordship desired it might be handed to him; which being done, he said he would stop the business in that stage, and produced a charge against those gentlemen, as being guilty of an act subversive of the authority of Government, and tending to introduce anarchy, by signing an order to the Secretary to issue instructions to Colonel Stuart, which had not been approved and passed by the President and Council. The matter was come to that alternative, or, the Governor appointed by your Honors must have been a cypher; except when they found it convenient to make use of him as a stalking horse, for every base act they might think proper to use his name in. Pursuant to the standing orders, "That whenever a charge is "made against any Member of the Council they are to withdraw," the President moved, that those gentlemen should withdraw; explaining himself, that he did not mean to leave the room, but only their seats at the Council Board. An adjournment of the Council was proposed, which

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ſeemed to meet the general concurrence, that the gentlemen might have time to make a reply to the charge, or remove it by an acquieſcence with the Preſident's former recommendation to refer it to your Honors; but they declared they did not conſider it as a charge, and that it did not deſerve any anſwer. The Preſident then moved, that they ſhould be ſuſpended till your pleaſure be known; which was paſſed in the affirmative by the Preſident's caſting vote.

11. Next day all the Members of Council preſent at Madraſs, except the two ſuſpended Members, were ſummoned to Council; Sir Robert Fletcher, Meſſieurs Floyer, Palmer, Jourdan, and Mackay, inſtead of attending according to the ſummons, ſent by a Notary Public a letter, ſigned by themſelves and by Meſſieurs Stratton and Brooke, declaring they were the only legal repreſentatives of the Company. Of this letter no notice was taken, as it was thought ſome at leaſt would reflect on the impropriety of their proceedings, and it was intended to ſummon them again to the next Council. However, in the afternoon, copies of this letter were, by their order, circulated in the garriſon to the officer of the main guard, the town major, ſecretaries, &c. This act tending to excite a mutiny required immediate attention; the Preſident called a Council, when Sir Robert Fletcher was ordered into arreſt, and the other gentleman ſuſpended: Colonel Stuart was of courſe appointed to the command of the troops, and he ſupped with Lord Pigot in the Fort-houſe; his Lordſhip not thinking it proper to go out of the Fort that evening to ſup at the Company's Garden-houſe, as he uſually did, although he always returned at night to the Fort. Colonel Stuart next morning invited himſelf to breakfaſt with his Lordſhip, and afterwards to dinner.

12. Lord Pigot being informed that the Nabob was under the greateſt apprehenſions from what had happened in Council, to quiet his fears added a paragraph to a letter which had been reſolved on in Council ſome days before, in which his Lordſhip obſerved, that he was ſenſible the contents of that letter were on ſubjects not agreeable to his Highneſs; that nothing

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could have induced him to mention them but his duty to the Company, affuring the Nabob he would be happy if his Highnefs would point out in what manner he could teftify his regard; and this his Lordfhip fent by Mr. Holland, the Company's Tranflator.

13. In the evening, at the Fort-houfe, Colonel Stuart, in prefence of Mr. Ruffell, Myfelf, Mr. Stone, and Mr. Lathom, ftrenuoufly urged delay till next morning, but at laft affured Lord Pigot, upon *his honour*, that he would that night iffue to the out garrifons the order of Sir Robert Fletcher's being under arreft, if we would order the Tappies to be detained, which was done accordingly. His Lordfhip was deceived by the candour of his own difpofition, and had no fufpicion of Colonel Stuart's villainy, who was only amufing him till it was dark; Colonel Stuart having at this time an order in his pocket, figned by himfelf, to Captain Lyfaught, for conveying his Lordfhip a prifoner to the Mount.

14. Lord Pigot went with Colonel Stuart, he having afked his Lordfhip to convey him to the Company's Garden-houfe to fupper; when the chaife was got about half a mile from the Fort, Colonel Edington, the Adjutant-General, came running towards them, and when he approached the horfes heads, he waved his drawn fword, and called out *Seapoys!* when a party came from the other fide, and Captain Lyfaught came up to the chaife with a piftol in his hand, and told Lord Pigot he was his prifoner; and Colonel Stuart, taking his Lordfhip by the arm, faid, "Get out." Lord Pigot was then conducted to Mr. Benfield's poft-chaife, which was ftanding by the road fide; an orderly ferjeant came out of it, and his Lordfhip was defired to get in; Captain Lyfaught followed, keeping the piftol in his hand, and conveyed him to the Mount, where he delivered him as a prifoner into the cuftody of Major Horne, who commanded the artillery cantoned there. Colonel Stuart returned to the Fort, and declared Mr. Stratton to be the Governor.

15. Mr.

15. Mr. Stratton and his Affociates publifhed a Proclamation, in the *name of his Majefty* and the *Englifh Nation*, declaring the motives of their conduct in making his Lordfhip a prifoner, which was principally grounded on Lord Pigot's having refufed his affent to Colonel Stuart's going to Tanjore, which the Majority had determined to be *neceffary*; though, fince their affuming the Government, that *neceffity* has vanifhed, Colonel Stuart's prefence having been thought ftill more neceffary for their protection. The other motives were, his Lordfhip having infifted that he had a right to adjourn the Council, maintaining his affent being neceffary to make an act of Government, and his refufing to put a queftion to the vote, notwithftanding the fenfe of the majority.

16. His Lordfhip never propofed an adjournment to ftop any enquiry againft himfelf or his friends, but there muft be fome rules of order; and it feems the natural office of the Prefident to adjourn as to call a Council; otherwife an oppofition, with ftrong conftitutions, might, by relieving each other, carry any meafure they pleafed, or put a total ftop to all bufinefs.

17. The objection concerning his Lordfhip's refufing to put a queftion to the vote requires fome explanation. The eftablifhed cuftom of the fervice, confirmed by your Honor's orders, and the recent refolutions of the Council, when a public advertifement was affixed to the gates to that effect, many of the Members of the prefent Majority concurring therein, is, that all intercourfe with the country powers fhall be confined to the Prefident; by the laxity of Government this and almoft every other regulation had been broke through; not long before our arrival this order was enforced, forbidding vifits to the Nabob, &c. without the Prefident's leave; and the Governor-General and Council in Bengal, to whom the matter had been referred by Mr. Wynch and his Council, declared the prohibition was conformable to the eftablifhed regulations of the fervice and your orders. On Lord Pigot's arrival, finding fpies had been kept on the Nabob to bring account of every thing he faid, he informed the

Nabob that he had removed all theſe, and would not reſtrain any body from viſiting him, being perſuaded his Highneſs would pay that attention to his old friend's advice, which no other perſon would be able to withdraw, ſhould there be any one ſo inclined. When Lord Pigot found that the proceedings in Council were communicated to the Nabob immediately, and had good reaſon to believe Members of the Board had given the Nabob advice to obſtruct him in the management of the Company's affairs, he thought it proper to withdraw the general licenſe, and on a motion in Council it paſſed as a reſolution, that no Member of the Council ſhould viſit or receive viſits from the Nabob or his Sons.

18. Sir Robert Fletcher was one who voted againſt this reſolution; ſome time after he propoſed a Motion to reſcind that reſolution; his Lordſhip obſerved, that paſſing reſolutions one day, and reſcinding them the next, were extremely prejudicial to the Company's intereſt, by making the Government contemptible for its fickleneſs; but in the preſent inſtance, it was by the regulations of the Service, and the orders of the Company, a privilege veſted in their Governor, and was not therefore a proper ſubject of the Council's diſcuſſion; that he would not put the queſtion, although it was almoſt the only queſtion he could think of that he would not put, as he knew the reſolution was entirely conformable to the Company's orders, of the propriety of which orders he was every day ſenſible; that he ſaw a breach of thoſe orders, by reſcinding the reſolution, could anſwer no purpoſe but increaſing his difficulties in tranſacting the Company's affairs. At the ſame time that he refuſed to put this queſtion of Sir Robert Fletcher for reſcinding a former reſolution, he offered to put one of Mr. Mackay's for reſcinding another reſolution, becauſe that did not concern the Company eſſentially, but himſelf. However Mr. Mackay declined having it put, as the other was refuſed. It may alſo be obſerved, that if Members in a Minority can again introduce when they pleaſe a matter which has been carried by a Majority, the ſame ſubject may be eternally renewed, and a total ſtop put to all buſineſs.

19. Mr.

19. Mr. Mackay, who now pretends to be so much the Nabob's friend, proposed in Council, soon after the Grenville's arrival, to seize the Nabob's person; and afterwards endeavoured to persuade me that my objections to it, as a breach of public faith which no apprehensions could vindicate, were romantic and unsupported, and that my notions were incompatible with public business.

20. Almost the first act of the self-made Government was to write letters to Mr. Russell, Myself, and Mr. Stone, saying, the support we had given to Lord Pigot convinced them no dependence could be put in us, and therefore that they suspended us the service; and they afterwards wrote a similar letter to Mr. Lathom, who had attended but one Council.

21. The morning after the Nabob came in great state into the Fort to congratulate Mr. Stratton, and gave public testimony of his rejoicing. It is reported, however, that they have in vain endeavoured to get from him, in writing, the sanction of his name to the measures they have pursued, though his gold has the credit of being the instrument which brought about these events.

22. Immediately after assuming the Government, Mr. Stratton, &c. promised a reward in public orders to the soldiers, doubled the port guards, and appointed a piquet guard, being alarmed by their own fears; and sent an order to Major Horne, under their hands, that in case of any attempt being made to rescue Lord Pigot, his Lordship's life must answer it; and a few days after Colonel Edington was sent to remove his Lordship at midnight from the Mount, he would not tell whither. It is now said Chingleput was the place, but there are good grounds to believe that would not have been his Lordship's fate. However Lord Pigot declared he would not trust himself with a traitor, and that whilst he had life he would not be removed from thence, but to his own Fort or his Majesty's ship. His determination, and the sense the men seemed to have of his Lordship's situation, induced Major Horne to become

fecurity for that time. It fince appears, by the affidavit of Mr. Randall, who is gone to England in the Grenville, that the Nabob's fecond fon had before this been tampering for his Lordfhip's affaffination; great pains have been taken to invalidate Mr. Randall's evidence, but there is fcarce a man in the Settlement who *is* not *now of opinion*, or who has not heretofore expreffed fuch fentiments, that the fecond fon is capable of that or any villainy to promote his ambitious views; for my own part I have not experience or knowledge of him to judge from my own obfervations.

23. The Governor-General and Council in Bengal have taken a decided part, in declaring they will fupport Mr. Stratton, &c. in the Government, although they fay they were not then become mafters of all the circumftances which produced this event. This refolution of their's will probably fecure his Lordfhip's perfon for the prefent, but men are not without apprehenfions on that account hereafter. His Lordfhip bears his fituation with that dignity, fortitude, and tranquillity, which conftitute his character.

24. This change has taken away all confidence the natives had in our Government, as they cannot think themfelves fecure, either in their perfons or property, when they fee a Governor, of fuch known abilities and diftinguifhed public fervices, can be deprived of that government, which his fpirited conduct faved from the public enemy, and whofe commiffion exprefsly fays he fhall continue in the execution of that truft till removed by the Court of Directors; and whether this be effected by an appeal to the army, who are to obey and not to judge, or by the mandate of the Nabob, is equally alarming. It is pofitively faid the Nabob has opened his hoards upon the occafion, and that Mortiz Aly Cawn's money, taken in Vellour in 1762, has been produced, and the half-batta has been reftored.

25. A few days before Lord Pigot was feized, Sir Robert Fletcher, who, being indifpofed, had not attended Council, fent a letter recommending that the Europeans fhould be removed from Madrafs, and that

that the half-batta ſhould be reſtored, reproaching himſelf for his haſty acquieſcence in that propoſition of the Preſident; by which he obviouſly meant to alienate the affections of the army from the Governor, although he and all his aſſociates had concurred in that meaſure without objection; and it now appears he had gained over the Captains of the two battalions of Seapoys ſtationed at Madraſs, viz. Edington and Barclay.

26. Soon after Lord Pigot was made a priſoner, Mr. Benfield and Comera went to Tanjore. Mr. Benfield carried a letter, which he endeavoured to get the Rajah to write to Madraſs, but the Rajah poſitively refuſed. It is ſuppoſed this letter was an accuſation of or complaint againſt Lord Pigot; and Mr. Stratton tells the Rajah in a letter, that he knows him to be weak, timid, and obſtinate. This letter I believe went by Mr. Benfield, and was the commencement of his correſpondence. Your Honors may eaſily conceive what the Rajah muſt feel on the occaſion.

27. The particular ſituation in which I am, deprived of acceſs to all papers, will be my excuſe for this imperfect narration: I ſhall only add, that I am,

Honorable,

Your faithful humble Servant,

Alexandria,
19th January 1777.

A. DALRYMPLE.

P.S. His Majeſty's ſloop Swallow, Captain Panton, is now at Suez; as ſeveral of his people have the ſcurvy, and all of them require refreſhment, the ſoutherly winds, which continue about a month, may perhaps ſet in before he is ready to depart; it is therefore *poſſible* your Honors, by an application to the Lords of the Admiralty,

miralty, might obtain an order from their Lordships in time for her continuance at Suez to carry your dispatches. Vessels have come from Marseilles to this place in eleven days.

*MEMORANDUM. The foregoing letter having been written from memory without recourse to any papers, I perceive a few mistakes to be corrected, and I think some additions necessary; these additions are chiefly from authentic translations of letters from and to the King of Tanjore, and from some memorandums of Lord Pigot's in my possession; the last I have marked L. P. to distinguish them from my own: the references mark the paragraph of the letter to which they relate.

Par. 3. " As settling affairs at Tanjore without the Nabob's consent " was a matter in which many difficulties might be expected, and where " an impediment might by a short delay become an insurmountable " obstacle, I thought it would be proper to go thither myself to execute " the Company's orders, and all the Members of the Council agreed " *unanimously*, that it was *proper* and *necessary* for me to go to Tanjore."

" Some Members were proposed to be joined in deputation, but the " Majority over-ruled that proposal, which came from Sir Robert Flet- " cher, who objected to the management of the Tanjore business being " intrusted to the President *alone*; although but a little time before he " had proposed to me, and has since entered that Minute on record, " that the *whole* charge should be entrusted to the *military officer* at Tan- " jore. Mens' disappointments on this occasion, several Members having " expressed their wishes to me in private that they might go to Tanjore, " together with private concerns and connexions, laid the foundation of " that opposition which has uniformly subsisted since then. Sir Robert " Fletcher, Mr. Palmer, Mr. Jourdan, and Mr. Mackay dissented on " the subject of a deputation. To convince them and the world that I " had no sinister view in going to Tanjore, I offered to carry with

* This Memorandum was received, with a corrected copy of the foregoing Letter, the 7th of April 1777.

" me Mr. Jourdan, who had before applied to me to go thither, and he " accepted my offer, although there was no deputation."

" I proceeded to Tanjore the 30th March, re-established the Rajah in " his Government, and returned to Madrass, where I arrived the 5th May, " having received a letter from the Rajah, requesting that the Company " would not only garrison the fort, but protect his whole country with " their troops, for which he offered to pay annually 400,000 Pagodas."

" Upon my return my conduct was approved by the Council, who " unanimously agreed to accept the Rajah's offer of 400,000 Pagodas " per annum, in consideration of defending the Tanjore country."

" Had the *Fort of Tanjore alone* been garrisoned by us, and the country " defended by the Rajah's troops, there would have been constant disputes " between them and the Nabob's people in every quarter; and if our " garrison in Tanjore was not so large as to awe the Rajah's forces, instead " of being a security and additional strength to the Company on this " Coast, a garrison in Tanjore would have greatly weakened them; the " Rajah would probably have removed the seat of his residence to some " other place; but by protecting the whole country the Rajah is more " firmly established, having nothing to fear from any parties at home, or " enemies from abroad; and being eased of a great expense, the money sti- " pulated to be paid to the Company (being very considerably less than " what his military usually cost) the Rajah will have a sum annually to " lay out in improving his country, to which his attention will be solely " directed; and the Tanjore country being on all sides confined by the " Nabob's country or the sea, the Company cannot be under the " necessity to make any increase in their military establishment on that " account; but on the contrary, there being but one interest in the Car- " natic, there is less danger, having none but foreign foes to guard against " and nobody within to unite with them."

"Some measure of this kind was essentially necessary, for although our "receipts on this coast have been adequate to defray our expenses and "investment, the Company for some time past receiving the arrears of the "Nabob's debt to the amount of about 400,000 Pagodas per annum, yet, "when the whole of this debt is paid off, which will be in little more "than a year, there will then be a deficiency in the receipts, and conse-"quently either the investment must have been lessened, or the present "establishment must have been diminished, as it is the highest absurdity "to keep up troops in time of peace which you are unable to pay; so "that it was a very happy incident to make this provision in a manner "entirely to the satisfaction, and for the interest of both parties. The "Governor-General and Council of Bengal condemn me for having "used my influence with the Rajah to get him to write the letter making "this offer, although I must have been wanting in every sense of my "duty if I had not, as it was so much the interest of the Company, and "of the Carnatic in general; and as it was unanimously resolved in Council, "that it was necessary to have the whole military force in the Carnatic "under the Company, and paid by them, the safety of the Carnatic "depending on a well disciplined force, regularly paid, being kept up, "which troops in the service of the country powers never are for any "length of time; and the Board also were unanimous in their *wish*, that "the Rajah of Tanjore might join them in their endeavous to place the "country in this situation."

"But at the same time I must do the Rajah justice to say, that "although he very readily conceived the propriety of what I represented "to him, and as readily assented to it, yet so far from his letter being *more* "than a *sense* of *gratitude* could *draw* from *any Prince**, that the offer of "territory about Devy Cotah came entirely from himself, without a "hint on my part, and his sense of gratitude and attachment to the "Company for restoring him to his liberty and kingdom without reserva-

* Bengal Letter.

 "tion

" tion was unlimited, ſo that he thought he could not by any words or
" actions ſufficiently expreſs his confidence in them." L. P.

Par. 10. The Preſident had the day before aſſured them, that if they would acquieſce in his claim of putting a negative till the pleaſure of the Court of Directors was known; he would not put that negative, except on extraordinary occaſions, where the intereſt of the Company was eſſentially at ſtake.

Par. 10. Lord Pigot ſays, " he was aſſured the Majority had bound " themſelves by an oath to ſupport each other." L. P. This circumſtance I did not recollect when the Letter was written.

Par. 15. I find Colonel Stuart's words were, " Go, Sir," or " go out, " Sir."

Par. 16. On theſe three heads Lord Pigot had, in reply to a former Minute from them, expreſſed himſelf very clearly in the draft of a General Letter to the Court of Directors, propoſed to be ſent by the Grenville, which he laid before the Council the 19th Auguſt; and therefore theſe matters being referred to the Court of Directors, who were alone competent to decide upon them, cannot be conſidered as any grounds for their proceedings. Vide alſo the laſt Note but one.

Par. 23. Some time before this (21ſt July) an anonymous Perſian Letter was left in the Fort-houſe; in this Letter are the following paragraphs.

" I can with great eaſe procure many proofs in writing of the aſſiſtance
" given to the Nabob by Members of the Council, and I ſhall in preſence
" of his Lordſhip make a public declaration of what ſums have been
" received by theſe gentlemen, on condition that the Members of the Com-
" pany in Europe ſhall give me a Cowle granting me their protection."

" The

"The Nabob ſays publickly in his Durbar, Who is Lord Pigot? I "will not condeſcend to ſee him, and I will ſpend Crores to get him turn- "ed out of his government; my ſons even ſhall not be permitted to viſit "him. The Commodore, a Sirdar of the King of England, ſees me "often, and I can manage my affairs through his means."

Ameer-ul Omrah, the Nabob's ſecond ſon, has declared publickly, "That "he has been at great pains to form a Majority in his favour of the Mem- "bers of the Board, and that Lord Pigot *will ſhortly be turned out of the* "*Council Room.*" And I am aſſured, ſince his Lordſhip's confinement, from what I think very good authority, that Hyder Ally's Vackeel affirms, the Nabob's ſecond ſon declared to him, "That he (Mr. Benfield) and "Colonel Stuart contrived and executed it, and that he can now do in "Council what he pleaſed."

In regard to the firſt paragraph quoted of the anonymous Letter, I think it not amiſs to obſerve, that one day in Council, before Lord Pigot went to Tanjore, Sir Robert Fletcher expreſſed ſurprize that there was not a Letter from the Nabob; and unguardedly recited ſome circumſtances which were contained in a Letter ſent by the Nabob ſoon after: I had withdrawn when he recited thoſe circumſtances, but they were ſo pointed, that both Lord Pigot and Mr. Ruſſell afterwards took notice of them to me.

The anonymous Letter adds, "The Nabob was once determined to "have entered into all Lord Pigot's meaſures, as he was convinced his "Lordſhip was not to be led into his; but ſome Engliſh gentlemen told "him, that he ſhould not liſten to his Lordſhip; that the King of "England and the Parliament were his friends, and could proſecute the "Company for their orders. The Nabob, thus inſtructed by them, grew "bold and refractory, or elſe he would have aſſented to whatever the "Company ordered."

"Soon

Soon after the Grenville's arrival Lord Pigot told me he was informed there were different opinions in the Nabob's Durbar about the Tanjore business; that the Nabob's old Counsellors had given their opinion to this effect, " This must be done, Lord Pigot is a firm man, but it may be " done by *consent* or *compulsion*. Lord Pigot has ever been your friend; " if done in the manner he recommends, you may be sure of his friend- " ship; and that nothing will be done without your knowledge, and always " in the manner least exceptionable; but if he is compelled to do this " by the Company's authority, you cannot know what it may lead to, or " what may be hereafter done by that authority."

The other party alledged, " This was done not by the Nabob alone, " but by the Governor and Council and Court of Directors; that the Na- " bob had therefore a right to insist that it should not be undone without " referring his case to the Court of Directors."

The words are, I find, " timorous, *fickle*, and weak."

Par. 25. The Rajah, in a Letter to his Vackeel at Madrass, says, " On 1st " Shaban (15th September) Mr. Benfield and Coletapa Moodaly (Comera) " came to deliver me Mr. Stratton's Letter; the 3d, being a feast day, I " was visited by Coletapa Moodaly only; on the 5th they came together, " and desired that I would answer the Governor's Letter; upon my pro- " mising to do so, Mr. Benfield told me that he would give me a copy of " what I was to write; I asked him why he should dictate an answer to a " Letter I had received? that I myself would do it; he told me that I " must not act in that manner, that he would go and bring me what I was " to write; he accordingly the next day produced a foul copy of a Letter " in English, which I had translated; upon examining it I found *that it* " *touched on an accusation of Lord Pigot*: I then said, it was not proper for " me to write *such things as had not an existence*, but that I would declare " what had happened, and give a direct answer to the Letter I received; " this I did, and he got it translated into English; after which he told " me it *was not proper*, and that *I must do as he directed me*; I did every

"thing in my power to excuſe myſelf, but he remained poſitive, and con-
"tinued to importune me every day."

On the 12th Mr. Benfield called upon me, and ſoon after returned home. I then ſent for Coletapa Moodaly, and ſaid to him, "You prevent "me from anſwering the Governor's Letter, and he will be offended at my "not doing it. The oppoſition you make is fruitleſs; you may depend "upon it I will not write what you deſire me; conſent then that I write "a true account of what has happened. You are a man of conſequence; "let us ſettle this buſineſs amicably, and be not diſcontented."

"He would give no ear to what I ſaid, but maliciouſly declared, that he wanted *no ſuch anſwer* to Mr. Stratton's Letter; and deſired that I would write an anſwer to the ſecond Letter, which related to themſelves only: he then went away, threatening that he would not return again. What a ſtate of uncertainty am I in at preſent? Should this man wickedly miſ-repreſent things, who will believe me? On Wedneſday the 13th I wrote and gave him an Anſwer to the ſecond Letter I received; the Anſwer to the firſt now remains by me: I told him that I would be very happy if he received it, but that if he did not I would ſend it through another channel; he told me that he would not take it, and deſired me *to mark what would happen after his departure from hence.* He added,

"You will *repent* this *when* it is *too late*; I will ſee the time when *you will be in the ſame ſituation with his Lordſhip*, and that four Counſellors ſhall be ſtationed here; *then ſee what will befall you:* After this he went home.

"Mr. Benfield told me, that, if I did as he deſired, he would ſettle every thing to my ſatisfaction, and that it would be much to my advantage; if *not*, that I would meet with the *reſentment* of the *Council*, and *none of my wiſhes would be accompliſhed.* This is the manner in which he threatens me; if I refuſe him any thing, I know not what conſequence may await me. Benfield does not conſider my ſtation, or the reſpect that is due to it."

Extracts

Extracts of a Letter from the Vackeel to the Rajah.

" Mr. Stratton then said, that you was much impoverished by a sum of " money you had given Lord Pigot; I told him, that when Lord Pigot " went to Tanjore, re-established you, and was returning to Madrass, he " refused even to receive his honorary dress which you offered him.

" What money and effects (said I) was there then in the country? " Every thing was carried away, and the bare walls of the Fort only re- " mained standing, that when you was restored you had not even a carpet " to sit upon; and how was it then possible that you could give ready " money to his Lordship?

" He desired that I would make particular enquiry, and told me that " his Lordship had received two diamonds of great value: I answered, that " when the country had been robbed of all the jewels belonging to it, " where could these diamonds come from? He then said, that I must " enquire of every person, and *endeavour* to *bring* his *Lordship* in *guilty*; " I told him that I had it not in my power to do so.

" He then said, that you had given his Lordship and Moodoo Kistnah an " obligation for a sum of money; and that 400,000 Cullums of grain had " come from Tanjore for this purpose: I then assured him, that *no grain* " *was given to his Lordship*; that you had sent the above-mentioned quan- " tity, as there was an overplus in your country and a scarcity of it in " Madrass*; that no other grain was given; and that the whole was a " report only, and did not deserve belief.——Mr. Stratton told me, that " *I lied*; that if I would make him fully acquainted with this business he " would be very much my friend; and he *threw many temptations in the* " *way of your servant*. I told him, that you did not allow me to want for " any thing; that I had his favour likewise; that I would inform him of " matters of fact, but that *I would not be guilty of telling a falsity*."

" A. DALRYMPLE."

* This refers to the grain bought by the Company.

Letter

Enclosures in Mr. Dalrymple's Packet.

Letter from Lord Pigot to the Court of Directors, dated St. Thomas's Mount 3d September 1776; received over-land 7 April 1777.

To the Honorable the Court of Directors for Affairs, &c.

HONORABLE,

THE very extraordinary revolution that has happened within these few days, by which I have been deprived of the Government, and am now kept a prisoner, requires your Honors to be made acquainted therewith as soon as possible by two French ships, which sailed from this coast some time ago, you will be made acquainted with the dissensions in Council, but it will be necessary on this occasion to recapitulate some circumstances.

On 29th May 1776 the President and Council resolved, that the Nabob's orders in the Tanjore country were by your instructions to restore the country to the Rajah inadmissible, and that the private claims of Mr. Benfield were not sufficiently explained for the President and Council to form any opinion thereupon; Mr. Brooke concurred in this resolution; but a few days after he desired the matter might be re-considered; this was very candidly acquiesced in; on reconsidering the Resolution of the 29th May, Mr. Brooke voted *against confirming* it, by which means it was in fact *rescinded.*

After rescinding the Resolution of the 29th May, the King of Tanjore wrote to his Vackeel, expressing his apprehensions at a report propagated that I was speedily to return to England; I gave the Vackeel my assurances that there was no truth in this report, but I thought it absolutely necessary to quiet the Rajah's alarms by sending a person of consequence thither, in whom the Rajah could confide, and proposed Mr. Russell, who I thought was in every respect a proper person to gain the Rajah's confidence, and to convince him that your good intentions towards him would be put in execution; and Mr. Russell having in Council given me his support, this ap-

pointment would be a teſtimony to the Rajah that my influence in Council was not entirely loſt, as had been induſtriouſly propagated. I propoſed Mr. Ruſſell to be Chief at Tanjore with a Council, but that queſtion was carried againſt me; I then recommended that Mr. Ruſſell might be ſent to Tanjore as Reſident, and he was accordingly appointed; Mr. Stratton, who had voted againſt a Chief and Council, concurring in the appointment of a Reſident: but the very day of Mr. Dawſon's departure, that Gentleman having ſupported my meaſures, a Motion was made for the Committee of Circuit to proceed immediately. The obvious intention of this Motion was to prevent Mr. Ruſſell's going to Tanjore, the neceſſity of which was become the more urgent by the refuſal of the Majority to grant the Rajah's requeſt, that Lieutenant-Colonel Harper might be continued in the command of Tanjore, and propoſing Colonel Stuart, who was notoriouſly known to be intimately connected with thoſe perſons who had uniformly oppoſed my meaſures concerning Tanjore, and with others, at leaſt ſuſpected by the Rajah, to have been inſtrumental in bringing upon him all the diſtreſſes which he had ſuffered, whoſe money-matters, it was confidently reported, Colonel Stuart had for a pecuniary conſideration undertaken to manage for them.

So circumſtanced, I repeatedly requeſted that Mr. Ruſſell might be allowed to proceed to Tanjore, if it was but for a few days; this was however refuſed by the Majority, and I declared I would not give my aſſent to Colonel Stuart's going to Tanjore till Mr. Ruſſell was gone thither, for the reaſons beforementioned: the Majority at laſt, on the 22d Auguſt, determined to order the Secretary to ſign inſtructions to Colonel Stuart *by order of Council*, I having refuſed to give them the ſanction of my name. On this occaſion I recommended to them to let the matter reſt till your pleaſure was known, whether a Majority could act without the Governor?—I obſerved, that Colonel Stuart having the command of Tanjore was not a matter eſſential to the Company's intereſt; I repreſented the many inconveniences that would ariſe, the fatal conſequences to themſelves, the difficulties it muſt lay Officers under, who are by their own commiſſions ordered to obey the

Prefident and Council, and are by the commiffion of Government required to obey me your Prefident and Governor, and my Council, without any the fmalleft authority being given to the Majority of the Council over the Officers, Soldiers, &c. I infifted the name of the Prefident was neceffary to make an act of Government; I admitted that the Prefident was generally required to concur with the Majority of the Council for the carrying on the bufinefs of the Company without interruption, but that when he thought meafures tended to the effential detriment of the Company, it was not only *his right* but his *duty* to put a negative thereon; which however a Prefident would feldom do but in cafes of neceffity, as he made himfelf folely refponfible; I obferved that my experience in 40 years fervice confirmed me in this pofition, that the Prefident's name was neceffary to make an act of Government. My reprefentations had no weight; the matter had been repeatedly agitated, and although I wifhed it might be left to your Honors decifion, I came prepared for all probable events; and when, in defiance of every thing I could fay, my requeft to leave the matter to the Company, my particular intreaty to Mr. Brooke not to fign any thing of the kind, Meffrs. Stratton and Brooke did fign the order to the Secretary, I defired to fee the paper, which being handed to me, I declared I would ftop the bufinefs in that ftage, and produced a charge againft thofe two Gentlemen for an act fubverfive of the authority of Government, and tending to introduce anarchy, by ordering the Secretary to fend inftructions to Colonel Stuart, which had not been approved and paffed by the Prefident and Council.

The charge being read, I moved, in purfuance of the ftanding orders, that when a charge is made againft any Members of Council, fuch Members not to have a feat, it be recommended to thofe Gentlemen to withdraw; explaining myfelf, that I did not mean *leaving the room*, but that *they fhould quit their Seats at the Council Table*. Some debate arifing, and a propofal having been made to adjourn, fome of my friends concurred in wifhing an adjournment, with a view to give the Gentlemen time to anfwer the charge; but they declaring they did not confider it as a charge, and that it did not deferve

deserve any answer, after some debate, I moved that Messrs. Stratton and Brooke should be suspended the Company's service, till your pleasure shall be known, which was accordingly carried in the affirmative by my casting vote; the Council was then adjourned.

In the evening a summons to meet in Council next morning was sent round to Claud Russell, Esq. Sir Robert Fletcher, Alexander Dalrymple, Charles Floyer, John Maxwell Stone, Archdale Palmer, Richard Lathom, Francis Jourdan, and George Mackay, Esquires, who, after the suspension Messrs. Stratton and Brooke, were the only Members of the Council at this place.

On Friday the 23d August some of the Members, instead of attending Council, sent a Notary Public with the following Letter:

To the Right Honorable Lord Pigot, President, &c.

Claud Russell, Alexander Dalrymple, and John Maxwell Stone, Esquires, of Council at Fort St. George.

"MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

"WE whose names are underwritten, being of Council, and constitu-
" ting a Majority hereof, taking into our most serious consideration the
" proceedings upon record at the two last meetings, and more particu-
" larly the unexampled outrage offered to the Constitution, and arbitrary
" behaviour towards two of our Members, by an illegal attempt to suspend
" them in order by a trick to get a Majority, are of opinion, that the pub-
" lic safety is endangered by the conduct of Lord Pigot, and you Gen-
" tlemen who have supported, and by every person who shall continue to
" support such measures, and we shall hold you therefore responsible for all
" the consequences that may ensue. We, the Majority of the Board, do con-

" ſider ourſelves as the only legal Repreſentatives of the Honorable Com-
" pany under this Preſidency, and as ſuch we have no doubt but that all
" the Servants of the Company will regard us.

" For theſe reaſons, and the evident illegality of the ſummons to Council
" for this morning, in which are omitted the names of Mr. George Strat-
" ton and Mr. Henry Brooke, two legal Members of the Board, we
" cannot conſiſtently with the duty we owe to our Honorable Employers
" attend the ſaid Summons.

" We are,
" My Lord, and Gentlemen,
" Your moſt obedient humble ſervants,

" (Signed) by GEORGE STRATTON,
ROBERT FLETCHER,
HENRY BROOKE,
CHARLES FLOYER,
ARCHDALE PALMER,
FRANCIS JOURDAN,
GEORGE MACKAY."

Willing to give them time to reflect, when this Letter was read in Council, no meaſure was taken thereon. It was intended again to ſummon the Members who were not ſuſpended on Monday, by which time it was thought ſome of them at leaſt would be ſenſible of the impropriety of their behaviour and make ſuch acknowledgment as was becoming on the occaſion; however they were undeſerving of this lenity. They ſent for Charles Bromley, a Notary Public, to Sir Robert Fletcher's houſe, and ordered him to circulate Copies of the foregoing Letter about town, and among other perſons to Sir Edward Hughes, the Commanders of the Company's ſhips, the Secretaries, the Town-Major, the Officer of the Main-guard, &c.

Many of these Letters were produced in Council, which was again assembled after dinner, and the Notary Public being sent for avowed his having circulated those Letters by the particular orders of Mr. Stratton and the other Gentlemen whose names were thereto. This act of sedition could not be passed over; Sir Robert Fletcher was ordered into arrest, Colonel Stuart appointed to the command of the troops, and Mess. Floyer, Palmer, Jourdan and Mackay, were suspended the Company's service until your pleasure shall be known.

I sent for Colonel Stuart, who came to me, and, having acknowledged our authority, supped with me at the Fort-house, as I did not think it prudent to go out of the garrison to supper under such circumstances.

In the morning early Colonel Stuart sent his nephew, Mr. Basil Cochran, to me, to know whether I breakfasted in the Fort or at the Garden-house, that he might wait on me for my commands; I replied, that I would do either, as was most agreeable to Colonel Stuart; Mr. Cochran returned with an answer, that Colonel Stuart would wait upon me at the Garden-house if agreeable to me: In my way thither I stopt my chaise at Colonel Stuart's door, when he told me he had appointed Colonel Edington to meet him at the drill, and would be at the Garden-house in about an hour.

He accordingly came thither to breakfast, and acquainted me at the breakfast-table that the men were very perfect in their new discipline, and he hoped soon to be able to shew them to me.

After breakfast he told me, if I would give him leave, he would dine with me, and gave me the following letter:

" Fort St. George, 24th August 1776.
" Saturday Morning, 7 o'Clock.

" *The Right Honorable Lord Pigot*, &c.

" MY LORD,

" AS I am very imperfectly informed of the steps which have led to " the honor conferred upon me yesterday, and not thinking myself entitled " to a seat in Council as matters are at present circumstanced, I hope " it will be agreeable to your Lordship to allow me this day to peruse " the Consultations, and other papers passed in Council, on occasion of " these unhappy differences. I doubt not but your Lordship will find " this request reasonable, because the practice of the service gives such in- " formation to the person commanding the forces from his seat in Council.

" I do not desire to put your Lordship to the trouble of ordering copies " for my use, the Secretary need only point out to me what is necessary for " my information; for I wish to act from information, so as to do my duty " to my Honorable Employers, according to my oath of fidelity, for the " public service, and with honor to myself.

" I trust therefore your Lordship will be pleased to agree to this request " before I am called upon to execute any public act by authority.

" I have the honor to be most respectfully,
" My Lord,
" Your Lordship's most obedient and
" most humble Servant,
" JAMES STUART."

I told Colonel Stuart I had not the smallest objection to his and the whole world having every information; that his not having a seat in Council required that civility the more; but that I never could condescend to any

measure

measure that looked like making a bargain with an officer: Colonel Stuart said, it rested entirely with me to satisfy him or not; it was his duty to obey. I afterwards shewed the Letter to Mr. Russell and Mr. Dalrymple, who thought it had a very designing appearance. I observed to them, it was proper to shew him the Commission of Government and standing orders, and on our going to town ordered the Secretary to get them and the Consultations of 1690 on the table in the Consultation room, expecting Colonel Stuart would come there, but he did not. When I went to the Admiralty House to dinner I found Colonel Stuart; he said he remained at home all morning in expectation of being sent for: I told him there had been a mistake, as I expected him at the Fort-house. After dinner I invited him to supper at the Company's Garden-house, which invitation he accepted, and at the same time acquainting me that he had no conveyance, requested I would take him with me in my chaise, and I appointed him to come to me at six o'clock in the Fort-house, giving him my watch to shew the hour, his own being out of order.

I that afternoon desired the Gentlemen of Council to meet me in the Fort-house, as Sir Robert Fletcher's successor was ordered to have a seat and voice in Council and Committees, when military affairs were under deliberation, in the same manner as at Bombay. I thought it would be handsome to let Colonel Stuart have an occasional seat in like manner during his acting as Commander in Chief. I wrote a note to Colonel Stuart, reciting the substance of your orders, and desiring, if he had copy of the orders to Bombay, he would bring it, as it was my wish to make every thing agreeable to him.

Some of the Council differing in sentiment from me, on the subject of Colonel Stuart's having a seat, it was agreed in my apartment that we would not have a regular consultation in form, but merely a meeting without taking places or shutting the door. Colonel Stuart had not a copy of the Orders to Bombay, but gave me a Letter, declaring that he had received assurances that he was intended to have a constant seat in Council in the same manner as Sir Robert

Fletcher;

Fletcher; this not being a matter to be at that time discussed little was said upon the subject. He was shewn the Commission of Government; he said he wanted to see all the proceedings, that he might judge as an *honest man* and a *free agent*; it was replied by one of the Council, that this doctrine of a military officer being a free agent, and entitled to know on what grounds orders were issued, could not be admitted; that a military officer was bound to obey the legal orders he received from the proper authority issued in due form, and had no claim to know whether those orders were for good reasons or not; at the same time that no information would be denied to him or to any man in the Settlement, for that the more public these matters were made the better; and that probably, if the application had been made *verbally* instead of by *Letter*, no difficulty would have been made to shewing him the whole proceedings. He made a lame excuse for writing, saying that he thought it was best to have every thing on paper; which admitted would have debarred his urging any thing in conversation.

Colonel Stuart said he had been misunderstood; that he did not mean disputing the authority, but only wanted information for his private satisfaction. Mr. Russell asked, if he had accepted the command agreeable to the orders of the President and Council the preceding evening? He replied *certainly*, for he had accepted the salutes and done all other things belonging to the office. He then said he was ready to do what we thought proper, and asked me what he was to do; I desired him to issue the general orders of Sir Robert Fletcher's being under arrest to all the out-garrisons; he pleaded earnestly to delay it till morning, but when the necessity of it was urged, to quiet the minds of officers who might have received the circular Letter from the Notary Public, he declared, *upon his honor*, that if we would detain the Tappies he would issue them that night; the Tappies were accordingly ordered to be detained, and the Secretary promised to send some assistants to the Adjutant-General for the quicker dispatch of those orders.

Between seven and eight o'clock at night I went from the Fort-house with Colonel Stuart to my chaise; between the two bridges I saw Lieu-

tenant-Colonel Edington, the Adjutant-General, come running aflant the road from the fouth-fide towards the chaife; fuppofing he wanted to fpeak to us, I reined in the horfes, and Colonel Edington, when he got near their heads waved his drawn fword and cried *Seapoys!* whereupon a party of Seapoys came from behind the trees on the other fide towards the chaife, and Captain Lyfaught, with a piftol in his hand, came up from that fide, and faid to me, "I was his prifoner," or words to that effect; and then Colonel Stuart feized hold of my arm, and faid, "Go, Sir," or "Go out, Sir," and an orderly ferjeant drove away the fervant who was behind the chaife with my fword: I was then conducted to Mr. Benfield's poft-chaife; Captain Lyfaught opened the chaife door, and an orderly ferjeant came out of it; I was then told to get into it, and Captain Lyfaught came in alfo; there was an orderly ferjeant behind the chaife, and Captain Lyfaught kept the piftol in his hand. As we paffed the Seapoy-guard at the Company's Garden-houfe, Captain Lyfaught faid, "My Lord, you muft on no account call "out," or words to that effect; I had made no fuch attempt, nor did I then.

When we arrived near to the Long Tank, about three miles from town, he told me that he was carrying me to the Mount, to deliver me into charge of Major Horne, and that he acted under Colonel Stuart's orders. About this time he let down the blinds of the chaife. I expreffed my fears for the fafety of the people in the town, to which Captain Lyfaught replied, he believed Colonel Stuart had taken every neceffary precaution.

My fervants inform me Colonel Stuart returned to town in my chaife, and I underftand foon after Mr. Stratton, Sir Robert Fletcher, &c. went thither; they proceeded to the Confultation-Room, and Colonel Stuart proclaimed them on the parade as Governor and Council.

I beg leave to refer your Honors attention to a part of the General Letter, the draft of which I laid before the Council on the 19th Auguft, to a

Letter from Sir Robert Fletcher, accompanying one from Colonel Stuart concerning the half-batta; this letter of Sir Robert's was, I have no doubt, intended to caſt an odium upon me for that meaſure, which I thought my duty to you required, and to throw out a bait to the army. The half-batta has been reſtored, and a gratification promiſed to the ſoldiers, as in the following General Orders iſſued on Sunday the 25th.

" The Preſident and Council being, upon the report of Colonel Stuart, " thoroughly ſatisfied with the conduct of the officers and men compoſing " this garriſon, have empowered him to aſſure them they ſhall meet " with a proper gratification."

Another circumſtance in Sir Robert Fletcher's Letter was his recommendation to remove all the Europeans out of garriſon, by which means having, as the event of Saturday the 24th has ſhewn, won over the Commandants of the two battalions of Seapoys doing duty here, viz. Lieutenant-Colonel Edington and Captain Barclay, the garriſon would have always remained at his mercy.

The extraordinary events of that night were ſo unexpected, that no one but thoſe in the plot were prepared for them. I have recommended to all my friends, both civil and military, to be paſſive on the occaſion, as it would be a much greater injury to your intereſts to have the calamities of a civil war, than the temporary diſtreſs ariſing from the preſent confuſion.

I herewith tranſmit to your Honors the General Orders iſſued by Meſſ. Stratton, &c. in Garriſon the 25th, their Circular Letter, with their Proclamation the 27th, Colonel Stuart's Orders to Major Horne by Captain Lyſaught, which are the only orders he is permitted to give me copy of; although I muſt take notice, that in a ſubſequent Order, ſigned George Stratton, Henry Brooke, Robert Fletcher, Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer, Francis Jourdan, and George Mackay, is the following paragraph:

As

" As your laſt reſource, in any attempt to reſcue Lord Pigot, his life
" muſt anſwer for it, and this you will ſignify to him."

I remained in confinement at the Mount from Saturday night, the 24th, to Tueſday the 27th, when between eleven and twelve o'clock at night Colonel Edington arrived with freſh orders for my removal; I will leave other men to ſay how patiently I bore my confinement, and with what propriety I conducted myſelf upon Colonel Edington's refuſing to ſhew his orders, or to make known to me whither he was to conduct me; I thought it neceſſary to declare, that I would not truſt myſelf with a traitor who had made me a priſoner, and that I would reſiſt while life remained in me. Major Horne's prudence and Colonel Edington's reflection ſtopped this violence proceeding further; and receiving a viſit from Sir Edward Hughes in the morning, I thought it prudent to demand the protection of the King's flag, and Sir Edward Hughes has in conſequence demanded a ſafe conduct for me to his ſhip; but underſtanding from Sir Edward that he could get no reply to this demand, I applied to the Mayor's Court for a writ of Habeas Corpus.

Mr. Ruſſell, Mr. Dalrymple, Mr. Stone, and Mr. Lathom, have given me all the aid and aſſiſtance in their power; they are not deprived of their liberty, but it would be contrary to the orders given to the officer in whoſe cuſtody I am were they to ſign this Letter. I am,

Honorable,

Your moſt faithful humble Servant,

St. Thomas's Mount, near Fort St. George, 3d September 1776.

(Signed) PIGOT.

Extracts

Extracts of Lord Pigot's Letter to the Honorable the Court of Directors per Grenville, dated 26th Sept. 1776.

Par. 1. Enclosed are copies of the draft of a General Letter I laid before the Council, to be sent to England on the Grenville, and of the Letter I wrote your Honours via Bombay the 3d of this Month; together with such other papers as I think will explain the situation of your affairs here.

2. Perhaps I may have been less apprehensive of the Nabob's opposing what I recommended to be for your interest than I ought; yet I am still convinced that the Company had nothing to fear from him, if men in high office had been faithful to their trusts. My rule has ever been, to conduct myself towards the Nabob in the manner most acceptable to him, consistently with your interest; but that your business must be done. He has not only been encouraged by Members of the Council here, but he has been flattered by the Governor-General and Council of Bengal, in ideas of independency very contrary to the tenour of your instructions: this is a matter which requires your serious attention.

3. I think it necessary to remark to your Honors, that I have applied through Major Horne for copies of all the proceedings of the present Administration, that may any ways relate to me or my measures, and also for their Letters to your Honors, but they have not sent them.

4. Major Horne on the 17th instant was ordered to communicate to me a copy of a Letter from Mr. Benfield to Messieurs Stratton, &c. dated the 8th, with their answer dated the 17th. Mr. Benfield says he has arrived at the knowledge "of certain transactions of mine, such as obtaining very "large sums of money, &c. from Indian Princes, which constitute me "guilty of infringement of the late act of Parliament; and declares his "resolution to commence a prosecution against me, for which he shall have "occasion to apply to the Board, to obtain certain evidences residing

" within the bounds of Tanjore, or in places belonging to the Nabob of " the Carnatic." I ſhall leave to the iſſue of the proſecution the proof of the malevolence of this charge: I muſt however take notice, that although this gentleman has been induſtrious for many months paſt in propagating his intentions, he has reſerved to the eve of the diſpatch the bringing forth his accuſations, that they may go home unrefuted; but I truſt you have that confidence in me, as to be perſuaded that my conduct has been ſtrictly honorable; and that you will believe me when I aſſure you I have received no ſum of money; and the only preſents of any conſiderable value, are:

From the Nabob ſoon after my arrival,
A ſet of breakfaſt gold plate,
A coach and a pair of mares,
A ſaddle horſe,
Three chaiſe horſes,
Two cows and a bull.

From a northern Rajah's Vackeel,
An elephant, for which I gave an horſe in return.

5. In my Letter of 3d Sept. I acquainted you, that I had applied to the Mayor's Court for a writ of Habeas Corpus, but without ſucceſs; I cannot however avoid tranſmitting to you the diſſent of Mr. George Smith, one of the Aldermen; and as this is not the only inſtance he has given me of his zeal for the Company's intereſt, I beg leave to recommend him to you as a gentleman well meriting your favour.

6. Permit me to recommend to you the ſon of Mr. Thomas Powney, a youth now in England, and to hope that the long and faithful ſervices of his uncle Mr. Henry Powney may induce you to appoint him a Writer upon this Eſtabliſhment.

7. (Concerning Mr. Randall.)

8. (Concerning Captain Wood, Town-Major, who goes home with his Lordſhip's diſpatches per Grenville, &c.)

9. (About the Swallow going to Suez, and having deſired Mr. D. to proceed that way to England.) I am,

Honorable,

Your faithful humble ſervant,

St. Thomas's Mount,
26th Sept. 1776.

(Signed) PIGOT.

From Lord Pigot, dated 9th October 1776; received over-land the 7th of April 1777.

To the Honorable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honorable the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the Eaſt-Indies.

Honorable,

I WROTE a ſhort Letter by l'Etoille, a French frigate, under date the 6th inſtant, to encloſe duplicate of the papers tranſmitted to your Honors by the Grenville, and I then acquainted you, that private Letters from Bengal mentioned that your Governor-General and Council had received information of what has lately paſſed here; I have ſince then received a Letter from them, a copy of which I have the honor to encloſe to you.

In the Letter I addreſſed to you by the Grenville I informed you, that Mr. Ruſſell and Mr. Stone had joined me in a requeſt to Mr. Dalrymple, that he would proceed to Suez in his Majeſty's ſloop the Swallow, and from thence to England, that your Honors might have the moſt perfect and earlieſt account of the ſituation of your affairs here. That gentleman will have the honor to deliver you this.

5 The

The 30th September I addreſſed a Letter to Sir Edward Hughes upon the ſubject of the Criminal Courts, and the 7th inſtant I wrote another relating to Sir Robert Fletcher; both theſe are in this packet for your information, together with the Conſultations the 23d Auguſt.

I am,

Honorable,

Your faithful humble Servant,

St. Thomas's Mount,
9th October 1776.

(Signed) PIGOT.

Copy of Letter from Bengal.

To the Right Honorable George Lord Pigot.

My Lord,

WE have been honored with your Letter from the Mount, dated 29th Auguſt, by the Triton. We had previouſly received by the Shrewſbury a Letter, dated the 23d, from the Majority of the Council, which impreſſed us with the deepeſt concern for the unhappy exceſſes to which the differences in your Council had then proceeded; and although the terms of their Letter, and of the Proteſt contained in it, gave us reaſon to expect the moſt alarming conſequences, yet we confeſs the account of your confinement filled us with equal anxiety and ſurprize.

Having maturely weighed the ſubject of the reſpective advices before us, our duty obliges us, however reluctantly, to take a part in theſe unhappy contentions, and we wiſh it were poſſible for us to reconcile it to the high eſteem which we bear for your Lordſhip's character, and the extenſive ſervices you have formerly rendered to the Company; but the occaſion is too urgent and critical to admit of ſuſpenſe and indeciſion. We therefore deem it incumbent on us to declare, that the rights and powers of the Governor and Council of any of the Company's Preſidencies are veſted by

their

their original conftitution in the Majority of the Board; that the violence committed by your Lordfhip, in excluding two of the Members of the Council of Fort St. George from their places, was a violation of that conftitution; that the meafures taken by the Majority to recover the actual Government, which of right is vefted in them, arofe from the neceffity of the cafe, and that we fhall acknowledge and fupport the title and authority which they confequently poffefs: in doing this it is fufficient for us to know that we are fupporting the legal and conftitutional Government of the Company, though we are not yet perfectly informed of all the train of facts which have brought the Government of Madrafs into the prefent fituation.

To remove every poffibility of a doubt, which your Lordfhip may entertain, that the whole powers of the Government exift in a Majority of the Members of the Council, we think it proper to tranfmit you an extract of a General Letter, which we have lately received from the Honorable the Court of Directors by the Lionefs, wherein you will find their fentiments very clearly expreffed.

We fhould have been happy to have had it in our power, by acting as mediators, to effect a reconciliation between you and the other Members of the Council; and we fhould have preferred this method, had we not feared that your differences had gone too far to admit of it, and that a want of fuccefs in promoting that defirable end might have been attended with confequences more fatal than any which can refult from our prefent decided refolution.

We have thought it proper to acquaint Sir Edward Hughes with the part which we have refolved to take on this occafion, that he may act confiftently therewith, in cafe the fituation of the Company's affairs fhould

be

be ſuch as to make it requiſite for him to take an active part in the deciſions of your government, which we earneſtly hope will never happen. We are,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhip's moſt obedient humble ſervants,

Fort William,
10th September 1776.

(Signed) WARREN HASTINGS,
J. CLAVERING,
RICHARD BARWELL,
P. FRANCIS.

Copy of a letter from Bengal.

To Commodore Sir Edward Hughes commanding His Majeſty's ſquadron in India.

SIR,

WE obſerve with the deepeſt concern, that the differences which lately ſubſiſted between Lord Pigot and a part of the Council at Fort St. George againſt the Majority of that Council, have been carried to ſuch lengths, that the latter had been compelled to aſſume the government of that Preſidency, and to iſſue orders for his Lordſhip's confinement.

Our duty compelling us, under theſe circumſtances, to take a deciſive part in theſe diviſions, we think it neceſſary to acknowledge and ſupport the Majority of the Members of the Council, in whom the rights and powers of the Government, according to the original conſtitution of all the Company's Preſidencies do really exiſt, for which we have the moſt recent, as well as the moſt incontrovertible authority in the Company's orders juſt received by the Triton; for your ſatisfaction on this ſubject we have judged it proper to ſend you a tranſcript of theſe orders, and to adviſe you of the reſolution which we have taken on the preſent occaſion, to which they ſo

pointedly apply, requesting that you will unite with us in affording your assistance and support to the actual Government of Madrass, if any change of circumstance should render it necessary for them to desire it.

We have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servants,

Fort William,
10th September 1776.

(Signed) WARREN HASTINGS,
J. CLAVERING,
RICHARD BARWELL,
P. FRANCIS.

N.B. Lord Pigot, on the 22d August, the day on which Messrs. Stratton and Brooke were suspended, observed to the Council that his own experience in 40 years service, and the ancient Records of the Company for 100 years, without deviation, confirmed his position, that the President's concurrence was necessary to make an act of Government, which was the government of *President and Council*; and assured them, if they would admit this claim of his to a negative *till the pleasure* of the Court of Directors should be known, he would never put that negative (except on on extraordinary occasions) where the interest of the Company was essentially at stake. Nothing, therefore, can be more unjust than to judge of the propriety of his Lordship's conduct, by referring to a paragraph which he had not seen in a Letter of the Court of Directors to Bengal expressing their sentiments; at the same time it must be remarked, the *original Constitution* can *only* be determined by *ancient Records*, which do not afford one order or one instance to shew that the *original* constitution was such as they declare.

Draught

Draught of General Letter intended per Grenville, laid before the Board the 19th of August 1776, referred to in Lord Pigot's letter of the 3d of September 1776, received in Mr. Dalrymple's packet the 7th of April 1777.

To the Honorable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the United Company of Merchants of England, trading to the East Indies.

Honorable,

ON the 25th March the President proposed, with the approbation of the Board, to proceed himself to Tanjore to carry your orders into effect, by placing the Rajah in the full possession and management of the country, judging from a letter received from the Nabob the 22d, that he would not give his consent to our carrying them into execution. Conf. 25th March. 22d.

The safety of Tanjore, and the security of the Rajah and his family appearing to make it necessary, not only that an English garrison should be in the fort, but that the country also be protected by the Company's troops; "It was resolved therefore to send another Battalion of Seapoys to the "southward, the better to enable the Rajah of Tanjore to collect in his "Revenues, if this measure proved agreeable to him." 25th.

The safety of the Carnatic depends upon a well disciplined force, regularly paid, being kept up; the particular safety and quiet of every individual seems to require that no other force should be kept up; and these considerations induced the Board to wish, that the Rajah of Tanjore might join them in their endeavours to place the country in this situation.

The President then moved the following question:

"Whether it is proper and necessary for him to go to Tanjore for the "reasons set forth in his Minute?"

Agreed *unanimously* in the *affirmative.*

 The

The Prefident then moved, that " He might take with him to Tanjore " whatever fervants of the Company he chofe, either civil or military."

To this Mr. Mackay and Mr. Jourdan diffented; Sir Robert Fletcher excepted to Members of the Council; the other Members affirmed the Motion.

The Commiffion of Government was then read, and it was thereupon refolved, " That in virtue of that Commiffion of Government, the Go- " vernor holds the *fame authority*, when *prefent* in any Fort, Factory, or " Settlement under this Prefidency, that he does when prefent in Fort " St. George."

Mr. Mackay, Mr. Jourdan, and Sir Robert Fletcher diffented.

It was then refolved (*nem. con.*) " That fuch a guard as the Governor " thinks neceffary fhall attend him."

Sir Robert Fletcher then moved, " That at leaft *two* Members of the " Council be *joined* with the Prefident in a deputation."

This was carried in the negative 7 to 4. For the arguments on both fides of the queftion in thefe feveral matters where there were differences of opinion, we beg leave to refer your Honors to the Minutes of the above-named Members, and to Mr. Dalrymple's Remarks on thofe Minutes.

Conf. 29th March. On 29th March the Prefident informed the Board in purfuance of their refolution, empowering him to take with him to Tanjore fuch fervants as he thought proper, he meant to take Mr. Dalrymple, Mr. Jourdan, Mr. Chambers as Interpreter, and Captain Wood.

The Prefident and thefe gentlemen fet out the 30th March, and returned the 5th May.

On

On the 13th May the President addressed the Board on the subject of his expedition in the manner following: 13th May.

"Having executed the Commission which you did me the honor to "entrust to me, I now lay before you a Diary, with the Letters and other "Papers which I have thought it necessary to take notice of, and which "have not already been laid before you.

"The sentiments expressed in the General Letter to the Court of "Directors per Ankerwyke, with the unanimous concurrence of the "Board at that time, as well as in Consultation the 25th March last, so "clearly declare the expediency, not to say necessity, of having the whole "military force in the Carnatic under the Company, and paid by them; "that it gave me much satisfaction to find the Rajah of Tanjore very "heartily concurred in the *wish* of the Board (Conf. 25th March) that the "Rajah might join them in their endeavours to place the Carnatic in such a "situation, that no other force should be kept up but a *well disciplined* "*force* regularly paid, and being sensible of the advantage of having his "country thus protected by the Company, he requested their assistance "to that effect, and offered to make an assignment of 400,000 Pa-"godas per annum for that purpose; to be paid in—

" November	20,000
" December	40,000
" January	40,000
" February	100,000
" March	100,000
" April	100,000
	————400,000

"From April to October the country yields but little, that being the "time for cultivation and repairs of Tanks, &c. The sum here stipulated "will afford not only a sufficiency for defraying the troops necessary for

M "the

"the protection of the Tanjore country, but will alfo leave a balance, "I hope, adequate to our military expenfes not paid by the Nabob; and "I have the Rajah's affurances that this fum is confiderably lefs than what "his military force ufually coft him; fo that under this head our wifhes "are completed."

"The conduct of the Nabob put it out of my power to take any mea- "fures to perfuade the Rajah to unite in promoting the other part of our "plan, concerning the troops at prefent in his Highnefs's fervice; indeed "the Tanjore country is not in a condition to be burthened with any extra- "ordinary charge at this time.

"Having fettled the moft effential matters with the Rajah, I thought "it moft proper, before my departure, to place the military where they "would be beft able to anfwer the purpofes intended, and where the "Gentoos would be the leaft interrupted in their cuftoms and ceremonies, "and in that fituation which would bear the leaft appearance of the Rajah "being under conftraint, fo that he might be able to govern his fubjects "with the fulleft authority. The upper Fort was very happily fituated for "thefe purpofes: Major Stevens the Engineer is of opinion it may be "converted into a Citadel at an eafy expenfe; a fmall garrifon will "defend it, having a moft excellent wet ditch and no out-works, and it "will command the larger fortified town very effectually. This meafure "gave the Rajah the greateft fatisfaction, as it feparated the troops from "his people; and the houfes in this Fort being nearly deftroyed, the few "inhabitants remaining had the Rajah's orders to remove, that the Eng- "lifh troops might be the better accommodated. The conveniences being "too few for the whole force then there, I ordered the Hofpital to be "removed to Vellum, and all the Europeans back to Trichinopoly, "except three companies with their officers complete, and one non-com- "miffioned officer, and twelve artillery-men; no time was to be loft "in doing this, or I fhould have communicated it to you before it

"was carried into execution. Major Stevens will, I think, have the plan "of this Fort in readinefs to lay before you in a very few days; I indeed "defired him to confider it well. At prefent all the expenfe the Company "is put to is in the charge of fome Coolies to level the mud walls of the "late inhabitants houfes.

"The Revenues collected from the Tanjore country, during the time it "has been in the hands of the Nabob, are, I am informed, as follows:

	Chuckrams.
" 1774	2,900,0c0
" 1775	5,000,000
" 1776	1,850,000
Total	9,750,000

"Out of this fum is to be deducted the charge of collection, repairs of "Tanks, &c. the amount whereof in the laft year was about 600,000 "Chuckrams, fuppofing this as a medium; the amount in three years will "be 1,800,000; deducted from 9,750,000 will leave 7,950,000; which "will be nearly the amount of what the Nabob has received from the Tanjore revenues clear of all charges and expenfes whatever; an immenfe "fum—little lefs than 4,000,000 Pagodas. The revenues of this year will "fall greatly fhort of the ufual amount, occafioned by the diftracted ftate "of the country as reprefented in the following memorandum, which was "annexed to the accounts delivered to me by the Dobbeer, who informed "me that the balance for this year, in grain and money, amounts only to "550,000 Chuckrams.

"Though the above fum of 550,000 Chuckrams occurs as a remainder "due from the inhabitants on a general ftatement of the revenue accounts, yet it cannot be confidered as a balance which can ever be collected; for the month of April is near at an end, and yet the grain from "various impediments has not been fully reaped, the confequence of which "has been, that a quantity of rain having fallen, the water ftands two

" hands

" hands deep in the Paddy fields, and much grain is damaged; no judg-
" ment therefore can be formed of the produce till it is threſhed and
" meaſured. Now the eſtabliſhed cuſtom of the Tanjore country has hither-
" to been, to gather in the harveſt and complete the collections within the
" month of March; but Tunkaws and Towjees having been made out upon
" the country this year to the amount of ſixty Lacks of Chuckrams, the
" inhabitants took the alarm, as conceiving the whole weight of this calamity
" would fall upon them. But this was not their only ſubject of apprehen-
" ſion, for they had received their advances of grain for ſeed and other pur-
" poſes of the Sircar, in the beginning of the year, at the rate of ſeven gold
" Fanams per Cullum, and now, according to the new aſſeſſment, they were
" to account for it with the Sircar again at the rate of only of two-one
" half gold Fanams per Cullum. They were now hard preſſed too for the
" payment of their balances of laſt year, which were calculated not from
" the produce, but from the aſſeſſment of the lands, as farmed out to them
" by the Sircar. The Ameens alſo having rated the lands above their real
" value, were continually forcing the people, by impriſonment and other
" acts of violence, to give them notes for the ſums computed by them (the
" Ameens) to be due, as though they had originally been farmed out to
" them at the rates now impoſed; during which tranſactions they pro-
" hibited the cutting of the grain. Having thus procured theſe notes of
" part of the inhabitants, and reſolving, that if the Rajah ſhould be reſtored
" he ſhould have no balance to collect, they delivered them over to the
" Tunkawdars, the regiments, &c. which increaſed their ſufferings. Such
" were the circumſtances which alarmed the inhabitants, and made them
" elope to Negapatam and the confines of the ſea-port towns, and thus the
" harveſt was delayed till the month of March was over. But Nizaumud
" Deen Ahmed Khan applied himſelf to the appeaſing the inhabitants, and
" diſpatched Cowls with the Cutcherry ſeal affixed into all the Soubahs,
" aſſuring them that the notes which the Ameens had taken from them by
" violence ſhould be returned to them; that the lands ſhould no longer be
" rented to them as farms, but managed as Sircar lands; that their advances
" of grain, and the laſt year's balances, ſhould be accounted for in the ſame
" manner as this year's revenue; and finally, that they ſhould ſuffer no

" longer

" longer from the Tunkawdars and Towjeedars. By this means he recalled the " people, returned them their notes, and set the lands on the proper footing. But so great a delay in gathering the harvest having already taken " place, and a great deal of rain having also fallen in that interim, the inhabitants have of necessity suffered a considerable loss; and on this account " it is that the above balance cannot be made good."

It was thereupon in Council, " Resolved, That the request of the Rajah, " not only to garrison the fort, but to protect the country of Tanjore by the " Company's troops, in consideration of his paying Pagodas 400,000 " per annum, be complied with." Conf. 13th May.

Sir Robert Fletcher being indisposed then retired, and the Board " approved of the President's proceedings on his Commission to Tanjore."

Mr. Mackay excepting only the seizing the Dobbeer, and the flogging Comera Dubash on the public parade.

Mr. Jourdan, Mr. Palmer, and Mr. Stratton, excepting only the seizure of the Dobbeer.

For a particular account of this transaction, which these Gentlemen are pleased to call *seizing the Dobbeer*, we beg leave to refer your Honors to our Letter to Bengal 13th June. Letter to Bengal 13th June.

We shall beg leave to refer your Honors to our Consultations for the various Letters from Mr. Benfield; but on the 29th of May a Letter having been received from him, complaining against your President, " In causing grain, " which had been deposited with him (Mr. Benfield) to be seized by the " Company's Seapoys, and in depriving him of the means further to collect " the revenues," the President desired the Resolution of Council 25th March might be read, as well as the Orders given, whilst he was at Tanjore, to the officer commanding the battalion of Seapoys, and the form of an order 29th May.

from him to ſuch officer as he ſhould ſend on detachment; and he thereupon deſired the opinion of the Board as to the propriety of thoſe Orders with reſpect to the Reſolutions of Council 25th March, and the powers veſted in him by the Board to carry the Orders of the Company into execution; upon which it was "Reſolved, That the Orders given by the Pre-"ſident were conformable thereto."

Sir Robert Fletcher objected to the form, alledging that the Orders, inſtead of going to Captain M'Kenzie immediately, ſhould have paſſed through Lieutenant-Colonel Harper. Every other Member concurred in one opinion.

29th May. It was then Reſolved, To furniſh Mr. Benfield with Copy of the Order given by the Preſident to Captain M'Kenzie, and the form of the Order to his officers on detachment; and to inform him, if his people could point out any officer or Seapoy who has acted improperly, and he will repreſent the particulars of ſuch behaviour to the Board, the neceſſary enquiry ſhall be made into their conduct:" but Mr. Benfield has not given in any ſuch charge.

The Preſident then moved, "That the Rajah of Tanjore being put "in the full poſſeſſion and management of his country by the Company's "expreſs orders, it is the opinion of the Board, that it is not in their "power to comply with Mr. Benfield's requeſts in any reſpect, thoſe claims "on individuals, which bear the appearance of having no connexion with "Government, not being ſufficiently explained to enable the Board to form "an opinion thereon, and the aſſignments of the Nabob not being ad-"miſſible;" which was carried in the affirmative ſix to five. The Preſident in his vote having obſerved, that Mr. Benfield had broke through the ſtanding Orders of the Company in many inſtances, by his interference with the country government, ſeveral Members gave in Minutes on this occaſion, to which, and to Mr. Dalrymple's remarks thereon, we beg leave to refer your Honors.

3d June. 1ſt July. 3d June.

On 3d June Mr. Brooke gave in a Minute, requesting that the above Resolution might be re-considered. 3d June.

On the 6th the Board assembled to re-consider the Resolution of the 29th May, but Mr. Dalrymple representing that he had not been able to discuss perfectly the contents of the several dissents, it was agreed by all, but Sir Robert Fletcher, to postpone it until the 10th. Conf. 6th June.

On the 10th Mr. Dalrymple delivered in his Minute, giving a general summary of the matter and extracts from your Orders, to which we beg leave to refer your Honors, to Sir Robert Fletcher's Remarks on it, and to Mr. Dalrymple's Reply, also to the Minute of the Majority, and to Mr. Dalrymple's Observations on that Minute, and also to Mr. Floyer's Minute. 10th June. 24th June. 8th July. 17th June. 1st July. 14th June.

Mr. Floyer not being sufficiently informed on the subject, the re-consideration of the Resolution of 29th May was postponed to the 13th June. On that day, 13th June.

The President moved, "That the Resolution of Council of 29th "ultimo do stand confirmed," which was carried in the negative seven to five.

Mr. Dalrymple then observed to the Board, that Sir Robert Fletcher and Mr. Mackay having declared they would give an answer to his Minute of 10th June, it was impossible for him with propriety to give any further opinion till he has seen their answers.

Mr. Mackay acquainted the Board he had some questions to move.

On the 14th June the President moved, "That all the claims of Mr. "Benfield are private and not public concerns." 14th June.

Mr.

Mr. Mackay objected to the propriety of the Prefident's Motion, alledging that the meeting this morning was to take fome Motions he had to make into confideration, which he thought ought to be confidered before the Refolution moved by the Prefident was put to the vote.

The Prefident having explained what he thinks the cuftom of the fervice, that the bufinefs introduced by him fhould be *firft* confidered, defired the fentiments of the Board, " whether the refolution propofed by him, or " the Motions intended by Mr. Mackay, fhould be firft taken into confi- " deration ?"

Which was carried for Mr. Mackay's Motion being firft put, 7 to 5 ; whereupon Mr. Mackay moved,

1ft. " That it is the opinion of the Board, that the Nabob had a right to " the Government fhare of the crop in the Tanjore country, the produce " of grain fown during the time it was in his poffeffion, and that any mort- " gages he may have given on the fame are good."

The Prefident then obferved, that the Motion introduced by Mr. Mackay being entirely relative to the fuppofed rights of the Nabob, of which he did not think this Board were competent judges, he was of opinion that Mr. Mackay's queftion could not with any propriety be put, as it might tend to the moft fatal confequences; and therefore moved, " That it might not " be put." It was obferved it muft tend to raife the apprehenfions and alienate the mind of the Rajah, who is at prefent well difpofed to the Company, muft keep up the animofity between the Nabob and the Rajah, give great offence to the Marattas, who may perhaps be induced to take a part in this difpute, and involve the Company's affairs on this coaft in the greateft diftrefs, without any *public* motive whatever for running thofe rifks, as the Rajah has not only readily complied with every requifition of the Company, but has requefted the Company to take the entire

protection

protection of the Country. Other objections were made, but in vain. The Majority of 7 to 5 carried this against the President, and the same Majority carried Mr. Mackay's Motion in the affirmative.

2. "Mr. Mackay then moved, That a Letter be written to the Rajah of "Tanjore, to inform him of the above Resolution of the Board, and to re- 14th June. "commend to him to give Mr. Benfield all reasonable assistance in recover- "ing such debts as appear to be justly due to him from the inhabitants, as "well as to restore to him the grain of last year, which was in the posses- "sion of his people, and said to be forcibly taken from them."

It was urged that this Motion was improper to be put to the vote at that time, because the President's Motion not having been put, it was not determined whether Mr. Benfield's claims are private or public concerns, nor whether Mr. Benfield's concerns are consistent with the Company's orders or not; nor indeed are the claims sufficiently explained, nor had Mr. Benfield given in any charge in consequence of the Board's information to him, that no Officer of the Company had any authority to seize the property of individuals; and till then, the Board cannot know whether the grain said to be seized, was seized by the Rajah's Officers or by the Company's, as Mr. Benfield had alledged.

The President therefore proposed, that instead of this Letter to the Rajah, a Letter should be written to the Nabob, to inform him of the resolution of the Board on Mr. Mackay's first question, and to recommend to him to send the several Amuldars and Officers with their accounts into the Tanjore country, that the Dobbeer might be enabled to lay before us a true state of the Nabob's rights to the Government share of the crop in the Tanjore country; the produce of grain sown during the time it was in his possession, that we might form an opinion how far the mortgages or orders he may have given are good.

The Majority 7 to 5 carried this alſo againſt the Preſident, and the ſame Majority carried Mr. Mackay's ſecond Motion.

" Mr. Mackay then moved, That it be further recommended to the " Rajah, to account with Mr. Benfield for the Government ſhare of the " grain in the diſtricts aſſigned to him by the Nabob, and ſaid to be forcibly " taken from his people."

This Motion was alſo carried by the ſame Majority, 7 to 5.

Your Preſident declared againſt the Motion, becauſe diametrically oppoſite to the orders that have been received from the Company by the Grenville, which brought their commands for reſtoring the Rajah, and who therein declare, that they will ſeverely puniſh every military Officer, or Company's Servant, who ſhall in any reſpect interfere in the affairs of the Rajah's Government; becauſe he ſaw clearly that this Reſolution of the Council will authorize Mr. Benfield to ſend Comrah the Dubaſh to tranſact his affairs with the Rajah of Tanjore, who had the inſolence to propoſe to the Rajah the renting of his whole country, and to declare to him that he was ſupported by ſeven Members of Council; and who further told the Rajah, that Lord Pigot would recommend an Engliſh garriſon to be placed in his fort, which he by all means diſſuaded him from admitting; and moreover, becauſe this Comrah told the Rajah, that Lord Pigot would probably adviſe him to depend on the Company for the protection of his country, which he was by no means to comply with, but on the contrary to reply, that he would defend his country in the ſame manner as his father, and that he did not want ſuch aſſiſtance.

After all Mr. Mackay's Motions had been carried in the affirmative,—the Motion firſt propoſed by the Preſident was put, viz. " That all the claims of Mr. Benfield were private and not public concerns."—The opinions of

the seven Members on this Motion are so ambiguous, that we must beg leave to refer your Honors to the opinions themselves.

The President then acquainted the Board, that he intended to have followed the above Motion with another, viz. "That it appears to this Board, "that Mr. Benfield's transactions with the Country Government are contrary "to the express orders of the Company, and that any interference therein "may raise apprehensions in the Rajah of Tanjore, and tend to involve "the Company's affairs on this coast; for which reason it is resolved, that "this matter be referred to the Honorable the Court of Directors." But by setting aside his Motion, this mode of settling the business, which must at last be pursued in reality, was thrown out, and has been productive of infinite inconveniences and dispute.

On 25th June, taking under consideration a complaint of the Nabob, that the Company's Seapoys, with the Rajah of Tanjore's people, had seized districts not appertaining to the Tanjore country, but wholly to the Great and Little Marawar; these complaints were understood to relate to Hannamantagoody; and on reference to the Nabob's instructions to Mr. Dupre in June 1762, to Mr. Dupre's reply, and to the Rajah's representations 25th March 1771, it appears, that Hannamantagoody was actually in possession of the Rajah at the conclusion of the treaty in 1762, and consequently, according to your orders by the Grenville, that it should be restored to the Rajah; upon which it was resolved, that a Letter be written to the Nabob, telling him, that, agreeable to his desire, the records had been consulted with respect to Hannamantagoody, and that it was found, by the Nabob's own instructions to Mr. Dupre, to have been in possession of the Rajah in 1762, and therefore, in pursuance to your Honors commands, it appeared to us that it ought to be restored to the Rajah, and we hoped it would appear so to him. Cons. 25th June 1776.

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In the ſame Letter the Nabob was informed of the Reſolution on Mr. Mackay's firſt Motion the 14th June, on which his Highneſs was beſt judge what information on this matter was neceſſary.

The Majority of ſeven deſired on occaſion of this Letter that it might be minuted, that "they approved thereof only ſo far as it correſponds with the "ſentiments expreſſed by them reſpectively upon theſe ſubjects on the "records."

Conf. 9th July. On 9th July the Majority gave in a Minute, deſiring Mr. De Souza and Mr. Benfield might be applied to for what information they could give about taking away the accounts from the Tanjore country.

On the 12th they ſeverally delivered in Letters, ſaying that all the Maratta and Perſian accounts had been carried away, but that the Malabar accounts were left in the villages.

On 23d July your Preſident wrote to the Nabob, in reply to a complaint that ſome of his ſervants were ſtill in confinement under the authority of the Rajah, and the Company's people in the Tanjore country; requeſting to know the names of thoſe ſervants, and of the places where they are confined, that he might make the neceſſary enquiry, and write to the Rajah to have them releaſed, if unjuſtly kept in that ſituation.

He reminded his Highneſs, that in the Letter of 25th June he expreſſed a deſire to learn from his Highneſs ſuch information as he might deem neceſſary to give concerning the orders and accounts of the Tanjore Country.

And the Preſident further took notice, that a ſhip of the Company's bound to England was expected daily, and that it would be highly ſatisfactory to your Honors to be informed by that conveyance, that the Rajah had been

been put in poſſeſſion of Hannamantagoody and Arnee by his Highneſs, and that he has been reſtored, conformably to your commands, to the full and entire poſſeſſion of his country as he held it in 1762.

But the Nabob has made no reply on theſe heads.

On 10th Auguſt a Letter was written to the Nabob, acquainting him of the damage done to the Tanjore and Trichinopoly countries by the freſhes, and repreſenting the neceſſity, to both countries, for the ſpeedy repair of the banks of the river; and requeſting that orders might be ſent to ſuffer earth near the village of Kellycott to be taken, and that every aſſiſtance be given by the people in the village of Sandamangalum in procuring reeds, woods, &c. the Rajah paying for the ſame.

On 3d June a Letter was received from Commodore Sir Edward Hughes, encloſing a Letter to him from the Nabob, complaining generally of your Preſident; and particularly that he had threatened to put a guard upon his perſon: to which a Letter was written in anſwer; your Preſident aſſuring us, "that the Nabob had totally miſunderſtood him; that he never had a thought "of placing any guard over him, although he feared, and expreſſed thoſe "fears to the Nabob, that the encouragement his Highneſs gave to European viſitors, and the impediment to public buſineſs, ariſing from the "intrigues carried on by them at his Durbar, would lay him under a neceſſity to place a guard to bring ſuch perſons to him, that he might be "acquainted with the nature of their buſineſs." Conſ. 3d June.

Your Preſident further declared, "that no wanton indignity to his "Highneſs ever was intended, or ever will be committed by him, although "his ears can never be ſhut to the complaints of the diſtreſſed."

On 6th June Sir Edward Hughes wrote a Letter, that he had ſent copy of the Letter to the Nabob, which he doubted not would produce the deſired effect.

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6th June. The Prefident then obferved, that there was in the Letter from the Nabob to Sir Edward Hughes an accufation of " his having ordered people " in the middle of the night to enter the Nabob's garden, pretending that " he had information of the Nabob's having ordered fome people to be ill-" treated there." The Prefident added, that he thought moft of the Members of the Council had been acquainted with the cafe alluded to, and although he had wifhed for the credit of the Nabob to have taken no public notice thereof, yet for his own vindication it appeared neceffary to mention it.

Conf. 6th June. On 10th May he received the following Report from the Head Hircar.

" After the Nabob took the Marawar's country, the Sircar's people " plundered every thing belonging to the faid Marawar's managers; among " the reft one Villayan Chirvacar's houfe was plundered, his daughter re-" mained in the faid country very poor.

" One Veerapilla, an enemy to her, told the Nabob, That fhe was worth " money; upon which he ordered her to be brought under guard to him; " and accordingly fhe and two more women and about 13 men were brought " to Chepauk, in the Company's bounds, a few days ago; but upon exa-" mining the woman there was no money to be got from her, as was ex-" pected. On this the faid enemy told the Nabob, that if he would fend her " back along with him to the faid country, he will put her to torture, " and recover the money. The woman would not go, for fear they will " murder her; but they are forcing her to go, and fhe declares, that if fhe " is forced fhe will kill herfelf. As fhe is now in the Company's bounds, " fent to acquaint your Lordfhip with the above violence, and beg you to " fave her life; and as it is my duty to acquaint you with any news or vio-" lence that might be committed in the bounds, I thought fit to make this " Report to your Lordfhip."

The President was upon a visit, and at supper; when he received this information; and as the Nabob's gardens and those to the Company's house join, he ordered the Hircar to wait at the gardens till his return, and to watch if those people passed. About 11 o'clock the President, stopping at the gardens in his way to the Fort, was informed that the woman was not come away; but that some of the people were carried off towards St. Thomé; upon which the President thought proper to direct the officer of the guard to send a Havildar and some Seapoys, who overtook them at St. Thomé; and the President at the same time gave to Saib, one of the Company's waiting Peons, the written information he had received, and directed him to carry it to a house of the Nabob's where many of his servants generally are, and to desire that the woman might not be removed till he saw the Nabob in the morning.

In the morning the men and old woman were sent to the Nabob, who enquired into the matter in presence of Mr. Chambers, and then set them at liberty, and likewise the daughter of the Duan; and got a girl of the Marawa family, who Veeriapermall had taken and used as his concubine, to be restored, and gave orders for another at Trichinopoly likewise to be restored.

On 17th June the President moved the following Resolution: " It is " the opinion of this Board, that the Letter from the Nabob to Sir " Edward Hughes was written purposely to create animosity between the " Members of this Government." Cons. 17th June.

He observed, that he would not willingly think so unfavourably of the Nabob, as to believe him capable of representing fears when he had none; but when the President sees the Nabob's name signed to an English Letter, of which he cannot read one word, when he knows the miscreants that he has in his Councils, he should not have been surprized to have found that Letter accuse him of any faults. The President observed also, that the

Nabob's

Nabob's Letter to Sir Edward Hughes was not ſent until a week after the viſit he had the honor to make his Highneſs, and in the intervening time that he had received a viſit from the two eldeſt Sons, with a meſſage of compliments from their Father.

The queſtion was carried in the affirmative by the Preſident's caſting vote.

The Preſident then gave in the following Minute:

" After ſuch a Letter as that written by the Nabob to Sir Edward " Hughes, and after the ſentiments of the Preſident expreſſed in the Re- " ply to Sir Edward Hughes, as well as what paſſed in debate upon the " ſubject, the Preſident does hope the impropriety, nay indecency, of viſit- " ing the Nabob under ſuch circumſtances muſt ſtrike every Member of " Council.

" The Preſident recommends, that, agreeable to the Company's ſtanding " orders, no Member of the Council do henceforth viſit or correſpond by " writing or by meſſage with the Nabob or either of his Sons.

" The Preſident is more particularly induced to recommend this, as he " is informed that the Nabob has been made acquainted with the late pro- " ceedings of this Board; and he thinks it very improper any Member of " the Council ſhould be liable to the ſlighteſt ſuſpicion of divulging to the " Nabob the proceedings of Government."

6th November 1769. 3d Apr. 1775. General Letter from Bengal 7th December 1775. 17th June 1776.

This queſtion was carried in the affirmative alſo by the Preſident's caſting vote. For the various opinions of the Members we beg leave to refer you to the Minutes.

The Preſident then repreſented to the Board the many difficulties that attend the conſtant reſidence of the Nabob within the Company's bounds, from the frequent acts committed, which are incompatible with our laws.

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" Inftances of murder, imprifonments, thefts, tortures, and fuch-like " offences, committed by the Nabob's people, wherein the interference of " this Government is indifpenfably neceffary, have already happened in " the fhort time the Prefident has been here; and he fhould ill deferve " the truft repofed in him if he let informations of fuch a nature pafs un- " noticed; and, if he is not paffive, the Nabob will ever think his dig- " nity hurt.

" Another inconvenience arifes from the fuits in the Mayor's Court " againft the Nabobs's family and attendants, which occafion applications " that muft lay the Prefident under the greateft embaraffments.

" The Nabob has not mentioned it in his Letter to Sir Edward Hughes, " but the Prefident knows he was moft chagrined at the Prefident's " having releafed fome children ftolen by a Moorman, formerly, if not at " prefent, in the Nabob's fervice, and who was ftopped in the Company's " bounds, but conveyed away by the Nabob's officers into his Highnefs's " country, and thereby has eluded the juftice of the Englifh laws. Of " thefe children nineteen were taken from the Tanjore country, one from " St. Thomé, and two from Cuddalore.

" The Prefident being defirous to avoid every occafion of giving difguft " to the Nabob, and as circumftances muft occur daily to increafe his dif- " content while he remains here, the Prefident propofes, as the moft effec- " tual method to prevent thefe mifunderftandings, " That it be recom- " to the Nabob to refide at Arcot."

This queftion was carried againft the Prefident feven to five. It was faid the Nabob's refidence here is attended with great advantages to the Company and to the Settlement, and that fuch a Motion would increafe the jealoufies already fubfifting; on the other hand it was alledged, that Durbar politics had been almoft the fource of the diffenfions that of late

years have prevailed at this Board, and will ever be fo while the Nabob refides among us. It was thought this meafure, inftead of increafing, would naturally put an end to all animofity between the Company's Government and the Nabob; would not only obviate all the difficulties complained of, but be extremely beneficial to his country, which is in a very miferable ftate.

24th June. On the 24th June feveral Minutes were given in on the fubjects of the former Confultations, to which we beg leave to refer your Honors.

The boafted wealth of this Settlement is almoft entirely confined to the Europeans, and fhews itfelf in diffipation and extravagance of every kind, which can never be to the Company's advantage: almoft none of the natives, except fuch as have had the handling of the public money, are affluent: there are hardly any Black merchants of fubftance; and the Nabob racks the country to fquander money idly away, which ought to be laid out in the improvement of the Carnatic.

This would be a fource of real wealth to Madrafs, and in time of exigency might enable him to fupport his government. In the prefent fituation, if the calamities of war are to be added to the diftreffes of the inhabitants, the moft fatal confequences are to be dreaded.

It muft be obvious, that all the difficulties which have occurred in tranfacting your affairs with the Nabob, not only fince the arrival of the Grenville, but for fome years paft, have arifen from the Nabob's being infefted by defigning men about him, who have had an intereft of their own directly contrary to your's. Whilft the Nabob refides conftantly here it will be impoffible to keep all Europeans from him, and he has many means of attaching men to his caufe within the limitation of the law, even admitting that men fhould be incapable of being induced to accept offers which your Honors may fatisfy yourfelves from Mr. Dawfon were made to him.

It

It is very difficult to bring home proofs; nay circumstances may come to the knowledge of your President through channels which cannot with propriety be made known; but he thinks it proper at this time to state for your information what has come to his knowledge.

The evening your President set out for Tanjore, one of the Nabob's family, after many professions of friendship, and of a desire that your President might be convinced of the confidence he reposed in him, and how much he was persuaded that no man had the Nabob's interest so truly at heart as your President, he begged of him to believe that he had used every argument to prevail on the Nabob to comply chearfully with the orders of the Company; that the Nabob was in himself all goodness; that no man could wish more for the prosperity of the Company's affairs than the Nabob did, but at the same time confessed, that giving up the Tanjore country affected him much: "Think not, my Lord," continued he, "that the Nabob upon this occasion is governed by the advice of "Mr. M'Pherson, neither believes that he pays much attention to that "of Mr. Mackay; he has a voice in Council it is true, but he thinks "him insignificant. The Nabob however is a man, and liable to the fail-"ings of a man; and when he is counselled and told by one in high "office, whose superior interest and friends have supported him in over-"coming men in power in Government heretofore, when he is told by "the Commander in Chief of the army sitting on your Lordship's left "hand at the Council Board, and holding honors and trusts not com-"mitted to the charge of any officer till of late, that your Lordship *dare* "not carry the orders of the Company into execution without the Nabob's "consent: feel for the Nabob at this time, conceiving his honor, repu-"tation, dignity, nay his favorite object at stake, that of keeping pos-"session of the country of Tanjore: feel for him, my Lord, and say, "if with such encouragement he is not to be excused. Follow this with "every mark of attention and profession of friendship the same gentleman "could give, see him producing the Company's private instructions to "the Commissioners, and reading the 29th, 30th, 31st, 32d, 33d, and

" 34th paragraphs, and you will find it no longer difficult to account for,
" the Nabob's conduct."

Although the letter referred to had been opened at the particular request of the Commander in Chief a little time before, and carried home by him with your President's permission, yet well knowing the artful and intriguing disposition from whom this information was received, your President looked on it as a bait thrown out to amuse him, and prevent his setting out for Tanjore; and he therefore paid so little attention to it, that he got into his Palanqueen, and proceeded on his journey, without ever having read the Letter mentioned, which, on Sir Robert Fletcher's returning it to your President, was left in his closet in the Fort-house, where it remained till his return from Tanjore, when curiosity led him to desire Mr. Stratton to read to him the paragraphs which had been referred to.

Your President will not recite the various reports he has heard since his return, but he cannot omit saying, that he was also told, before his journey to the southward, by the same person of the Nabob's family, that the Commander in Chief had encouraged the Nabob to believe that there would soon be a division in the Council, telling him Mr. Dawson, Mr. Brooke, and Mr. Russell, had all applied to go to Mazulipatam; that your President kept these Members in expectation of the Chiefship, but that when the office was filled up, the President would certainly disoblige two of them. And your President must say, that since your Honor's nomination of Mr. Floyer has been known, he has not had the support from Mr. Brooke which he before received from him.

Conf. 24th June. In Consultation the 24th June Mr. Mackay gave in the following Minute.

" As the Resolution on the Nabob's Letter to Sir Edward Hughes
" was carried by the President's casting vote, though in Mr. Mackay's
" opinion

" opinion of one of the Members for that queſtion Mr. Brooke appears
" doubtful, Mr. Mackay moves that the Reſolution be now reſcinded."

Sir Robert Fletcher alſo begged leave to repreſent to the Board, "That
" he has had the Records examined, and can find *no ſuch ſtanding* order of
" the *Company*, as was quoted by the Preſident on Monday laſt (17th of
" June) and upon which he imagines *ſome* of the Members of the Board
" were induced to vote for his Lordſhip's ſecond Motion; Sir Robert
" Fletcher further obſerves, that upon conſidering attentively the words
" in which that Motion is conceived, he finds that Members of the Board
" may be thought by ſome (though innocently) to offend againſt the Re-
" ſolution which paſſed upon that Motion, merely becauſe they do not,
" and he thinks cannot, ſhut their doors in the faces of the Nabob and
" his ſons, when they happen, which they ſometimes do, to drop in, in an
" evening to viſit his family; and as for Sir Robert Fletcher himſelf, he
" muſt repeat, that there are frequent complaints made to him from the
" out-garriſons of diſputes between the officers under his command, and
" the Nabob's officers, and againſt ſome of the Company's officers in the
" Nabob's ſervice upon points of duty. Theſe, in conſequence of a
" meſſage from the Commander in Chief to the Nabob, or to one of his
" ſons, or a meſſage from one of them to the Commander in Chief, are,
" in general, amicably *ſettled by him*.

" For all theſe reaſons, Sir Robert hopes the impropriety of the Reſo-
" lution on the Preſident's ſecond Motion on Monday laſt, will ſtrike
" every Member of the Board, and he therefore moves that that Reſo-
" ſoution be reſcinded."

On the 8th July, in conſequence of the Motion of Sir Robert Fletcher of 24th June, being deſired by him to be conſidered, the Preſident obſerved, " That the Reſolution of Council of 17th June, '*that Members* of
" the *Board ſhould not viſit* or receive meſſages from the *Nabob or his*
" *Sons*, was grounded on the reaſons which are given on his Minute pre- Conſ. 8th July.

" ceding that Motion; that it is true he had, at the desire of Mr. Brooke, " given his consent to the reconsideration of the Resolution of the 29th " May on the Nabob and Mr. Benfield's claims on the Tanjore country, " because that private property was there concerned; but as no such " matter was affected by the Resolution of the 17th June, and because " the rescinding such Resolution would only increase the difficulties he " has found in conducting the business of the Company with the Nabob, " he now declares, that he never will give his consent to the question of " Sir Robert Fletcher being put. The President at the same time ob- " serves to the Board, that he is certain of acting on this occasion with " perfect consistency; that during the many years he has been in the ser- " vice, he has always known the business of the Board to originate with the " President, who is undoubtedly the properest person to lay before them " such subjects as may require their consideration; that making Resolu- " tions one day, and reconsidering and rescinding the next, can be pro- " ductive of no good consequence to the Company's affairs, but on the " contrary stamp the measures of Government with such an air of fickle- " ness, as must be highly detrimental to them."

Many Members gave in Minutes on the subject, to which we beg leave to refer your Honors.

The President then declared, that he was ready to put Mr. Mackay's Motion, as that was a matter which did not concern the Company, but himself; however Mr. Mackay declined having it put.

Cons. 9th July.

On 9th July the Majority of seven gave in a Minute against your President, for first, Having *asserted* a *right* to *adjourn the Council*. Secondly, Having in the Civil Department *refused* to *put* a *previous question*, although desired by many of the Board, who had not had time to consider of the proposition laid before them. Thirdly, Having *refused* to *put a question regularly moved* for *rescinding* a *former Resolution* of *Council*. And Fourthly, Having

Having aſſerted that a *Reſolution* of *the Majority* of the *Board* cannot be *carried* into *execution* without *his concurrence.*

Your Preſident thinks it proper on this occaſion to obſerve, that he thinks the preſervation of order and propriety in Government makes it neceſſary for the power of adjournment to be in the Preſident, without which a faction with ſtrong conſtitutions, by relieving each other, might force the Preſident, who is obliged to remain in the chair, into whatever meaſures they pleaſed. Were your Preſident to adjourn to evade any charge either againſt himſelf or his friends, there might be ground of complaint, not for the adjournment, but the motive of it; but in tranſacting the important public concerns of your Government, if the Members of the Council, inſtead of aſſiſting your Preſident with their advice, are to aſſume the reins and determine what is fit in their private meetings, and come to Council only to dictate to your Preſident, it is impoſſible for your affairs to eſcape ruin. Your Government muſt be ſupported.

Your Preſident thinks he has a right to require of every Member of the Council an opinion upon ſuch matters as he may lay before them, and therefore, that it is improper to admit of a previous queſtion which may deprive him of that opinion.

The forms and rules of popular aſſemblies are not at all applicable to a Council Board, and if they were introduced, inſtead of promoting buſineſs would impede it, and throw every thing into confuſion. In the inſtance referred to, your Preſident did not require a haſty deciſion; he declared his readineſs to ſit as long as they pleaſed, but was convinced the Members of the Majority merely urged delay becauſe it was ſuppoſed Mr. Dawſon would not attend another Council, and that by poſtponing the buſineſs your Preſident would be deprived of that gentleman's ſupport in a meaſure which appears of infinite conſequence to your affairs, viz. ſending Mr. Ruſſell to Tanjore. Mr. Dawſon, ſeeing the dilemma in which your Preſident was reduced, in a very becoming manner declared,

he

he would not turn his back on your ſervice, and would readily attend on a future day; and your Preſident muſt do Mr. Dawſon the juſtice to ſay, he ever received his ready ſupport in the adminiſtration of your affairs.

3dly. Your Preſident cannot avoid remarking, that when he refuſed to put Sir Robert Fletcher's Motion for reſcinding the Reſolution of Council of 17th June againſt Members of the Council viſiting the Nabob, he took notice that it was almoſt the only queſtion which he would not put, but that the Reſolution was entirely conformable to your orders, to ancient uſage, and neceſſary for good government; that reſcinding the Reſolution would be a breach of your orders, and tend to involve your affairs in difficulties for no reaſon; and that intercourſe with the Country Government was a privilege which you had been pleaſed to veſt in your Preſident ſolely, and therefore was what the Council could not agitate with propriety. However in the Minute above referred to the Majority declare, "The Reſolution of 17th June is legally, though not in the uſual form "reſcinded," which your Preſident cannot admit.

Your Preſident, from an attentive conſideration of the Commiſſion of Government, thinks his Council are appointed the better to enable him to manage your affairs; he thinks he can do nothing without a Majority of his Council, and he thinks ſo great a deference is due to that Majority, as to require the Preſident to concur with them on ordinary occaſions, but not in diſobedience to your commands; on the contrary, he thinks his duty to the Company obliges him not to concur with a ſettled Majority, who uniformly purſue meaſures ruinous to your intereſts, and contrary to your orders.

Encloſure

Enclosure in Mr. Dalrymple's Packet. Received over-land the 7th of April 1777.

Measures worthy the attention of the Court of Directors for the re-establishment of good government and order in their Settlement at Madrass.

1. IT is necessary that no room be left to doubt that a Majority of the Council cannot do an act of Government without the President.

2. The new military regulations cannot be continued without total destruction to the Company, as the Government is thereby at the mercy of the military Commander in Chief. The Governor ought to have at least as much power over the military as formerly, when the Company's affairs were conducted so much to the honor of the nation, and to their benefit.

3. All the appointments military as well as civil ought to be in the President and Council at the recommendation of the Governor.

4. It has been questioned whether the President and Council can bring the Military Commander in Chief to a Court-Martial, without calling officers from the other Presidencies to try him? and the authority of the Governor to put him in arrest, even whilst in garrison, is positively denied, notwithstanding the Company's orders are clear on this head; but it is alledged the new regulations have superseded all antecedent orders.

5. One great cause of the confusion in the Company's affairs here, is the Nabob's debt to individuals; the orders he has granted on different districts amount to more than two millions sterling (2,000,000l.) great part of this is due to Europeans for sums lent, and other money transactions, which are contrary to the express orders of the Company; but it is pretended these orders are now superseded by the Act of Parliament:

this ought to be put an effectual ſtop to, and it is to be feared, before any remedy can be applied, the debt will be greatly increaſed; the ſum abovementioned is not the whole of the Nabob's debt, but only of what he has given orders for payment during the laſt year; thoſe orders are nearly equal to the amount of his annual revenues.

6. The Company very judiciouſly gave orders, that all the Nabob's troops ſhould be diſbanded; it will be neceſſary to repeat this order, as the Governor-General and Council of Bengal ſay he is an independent prince, and have reſolved they will ſupport his rights, by exerting with effect the power veſted in them by the Legiſlature. It is the more neceſſary theſe troops ſhould be diſbanded, as he has at leaſt 150 European officers who have ſtole out to India; and this is a growing evil.

7. Continuing the Jaghier under the Nabob is very prejudicial to the Company's intereſt. It is indeed generally ſuppoſed the Nabob pays a larger Sum than the country is at preſent able to bear; but it can never be the Company's intereſt to diſtreſs the inhabitants, and, under good management, it is very capable of great improvement. If the Jaghier is taken from the Nabob, he will be induced to remove from Madraſs, which will be attended with many good conſequences.

8. The former Regulation in the Company's ſervice, that all intercourſe with the Country Government ſhould be confined to the Preſident, is very neceſſary to be confirmed, as queſtions have ariſen concerning the validity of that Regulation.

9. It is very injurious to the natives to permit Europeans or Chriſtians of any denomination to be concerned in the Farms, and it will alſo be productive of many inconveniences to the Company as well as oppreſſions to the inhabitants.

10. Selling the waste land belonging to the Company is a measure calculated to serve private purposes at the Company's expense; where lands are wanted for occupancy, they ought to be granted at a small quit-rent, with a power of redemption, on paying the fair value of improvements.

Enclosure in Mr. Dalrymple's Packet. Received over-land 7th April 1777.

Copy of General Orders issued the 25th August 1776.

By George Stratton, Esq. President, Henry Brooke, Sir Robert Fletcher, Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer, Francis Jourdan, and George Mackay, Esqrs. of Council at Fort St. George.

THE illegal, violent, and unconstitutional conduct of Lord Pigot, late President of the Council, aided and assisted by Messrs. Russell, Dalrymple, and Stone, in breaking through the positive orders of the Company, have compelled us, for the future welfare and preservation of the affairs of the Company, to order Lord Pigot into arrest, and to suspend from the Company's service the other three Gentlemen, until the Company's pleasure shall be known; and George Stratton, Esq. being the next senior servant to Lord Pigot, is, agreeable to the orders of the Company, appointed President, and is to be obeyed as such; and all the officers and soldiers upon this establishment are hereby commanded to pay due obedience to our orders; signed by ourselves, or our Secretary, we, the Majority of the Council, being the only legal representatives of the Company.

(Signed) GEO. STRATTON.
HENRY BROOKE,
ROBERT FLETCHER,
CHAS FLOYER,
ARCHDALE PALMER,
FRANS JOURDAN,
GEO. MACKAY.

The Government having devolved on George Stratton, Esq. the honors of second of the coast are to be paid to Henry Brooke, Esq.

Colonel Stuart is to take upon him the charge and command of the army and of this garrison during the indisposition of Sir Robert Fletcher, who will, notwithstanding his illness, continue to act as third of Council.

The President and Council being, upon the report of Colonel Stuart, thoroughly satisfied with the conduct of the officers and men composing the Garrison, have empowered him to assure them they shall meet with a *proper gratification.*

Captain Arthur Lysaught is appointed Town-Major, and Lieutenant Hoare Fort-Adjutant, and are to be obeyed as such. Lieutenant Colonel Nixon is to join the 1st Battallion of the 1st Regiment at Vellore.

Sunday, August 25th eight o'clock. A picquet to mount immediately till further orders, consisting of 1 Captain, 2 Subalterns, 2 Serjeants, 1 Drummer, and 50 Rank and File, to be warned from those who came last off duty.

The officers to wear their sashes constantly, and the men their accoutrements, and to keep their arms as near them as possible, that they may be ready to turn out at the shortest notice. The Drummer to remain always at the Barrack Guard.

No person on picquet to go out of the garrison.

In case of an alarm, the picquet to assemble in front of the Barracks.

Enclosure in Mr. Dalrymple's Packet. Received over-land 7th April 1777.

Letter from Lord Pigot to the Governor-General and Council at Bengal, dated St. Thomas's Mount, 15th September 1776.

To the Honorable Warren Hastings, Esquire, Governor-General, &c. Council of Bengal.

Honorable Sir and Sirs,

CAPTAIN PANTON, of his Majesty's ship Swallow, having done me the honor to deliver me the Letter which you were pleased to address to me and the Council by that ship, I am become acquainted with your sentiments concerning my proceedings at Tanjore, and on my conduct with respect to the Nabob.

In the situation I am, deprived of all reference to the public records, willing to shew all due deference to your opinion, but desirous at the same time to justify my conduct to the world, and observing that private complaints and private opinions are blended with the public and authentic acts, and circumstances mentioned which never existed, I may stand excused if I desire that copies of all the Nabob's complaints may be transmitted to me.

Seeing also private references made by Sir Robert Fletcher to the opinion of Lieutenant-General Clavering, extracts of whose answers I understand have been handed about the Garrison by an orderly Serjeant (copy of one of which comes enclosed) I trust General Clavering will have no objection to lay before your Honor, &c. the correspondence that has passed on public matters between him and the Commander in Chief here,

that I may be furnifhed with authentic copies of fuch as you may fee proper.

I have the honor to be,
Honorable Sir and Sirs,
Your moft obedient humble fervant,

St. Thomas's Mount,
15th September 1776.

(Signed) PIGOT.

Enclofure in Mr. Dalrymple's Packet. Received over-land 7th April 1777.

Copy of a paper faid to be an extract of a Letter to Sir Robert Fletcher from General Clavering.

" THE reafons for not extending our animadverfions to fuch matters " as concern your internal government was, 1ft. That we did not think " our jurifdiction competent to take cognizance of them unlefs, the Majo- " rity of the Board had required it of us; and 2dly, That we thought " you had power within yourfelves to render the Government efficient, on " the Prefident's refufing to execute any order of the Majority."

" We have here afferted and maintained, that the Government is " vefted in the Majority;" and then, fpeaking of Sir Robert's arreft, and not fummoning him to Council during that fuppofed arreft, " By the " fame rule that the Prefident does not fummon one, he may confine the " number of the Council to thofe perfons only who are his creatures and " dependents; but a junto thus formed, is no longer the Council appointed " by the Company as their reprefentatives, and their acts are illegal. " He adds, that putting Sir Robert in arreft, and upon the pretence " alledged, was the moft violent act of defpotifm he ever heard of."

N. B. The charge given to the Board by the Prefident againft Sir Robert Fletcher was for difobedience of orders and infidelity to the Company;

pany; ſome of Sir Robert's friends thereupon requeſted, that the matter might be paſſed over and nothing more ſaid of it; this the Governor more readily aſſented to, as in the courſe of the trial it would have been neceſſary to have called upon the Nabob's ſons, and perhaps upon the Nabob himſelf, as evidences. Meſſrs. Jourdan and Mackay went to Sir Robert, and returned to Council with him, when he ſignified, that he underſtood what had paſſed was to be buried in oblivion, and therefore it was very improper in him to revive the ſubject by mentioning it to General Clavering.

Encloſure in Mr. Dalrymple's Packet. Received over-land 7th April 1777.

Letter from Mr. Munro to the Court of Directors, dated Fort St. George, 21ſt September 1776.

To the Honorable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honorable the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the Eaſt-Indies.

Honorable,

AT a period of diſtraction and violence, when rebellion has diſplayed her banner in one of your principal ſettlements, and uſurpation has wreſted the reins of Government from the hands you had intruſted them to, an humble appeal againſt arbitrary meaſures, a complaint of the moſt unmerited and injurious treatment towards a civil ſervant of this eſtabliſhment, will be far from being an unnatural conſequence; as thoſe who have eſtabliſhed themſelves by deceit and military force in the adminiſtration of this Government, will have little ſcruple to maintain their authority by violence, and to remove every individual from places of truſt, who may have the ſpirit to deny their power, and fortitude to preſerve his fidelity unimpeached to his Honorable Employers.

On

On the revolution of this Government, I was influenced by the dictates of fidelity and duty to the Honorable Company to sign my name to a Letter (in conjunction with many of my fellow servants, who were actuated by the same principles) containing a formal protest against the authors thereof. This Letter will be sent a number in the Grenville's packet, and I must beg leave to refer your Honors thereto for the motives of my conduct; and I flatter myself, that motives adopted by so great a majority as thirty-eight of your civil servants at the Presidency, are as little liable to be tainted by error as by prejudice or interest. If a President by you elected as worthy of so high a trust, if a commission originating from yourselves, and endowing the Right Honorable Lord Pigot with a Government, from which, it expressly says, he is only removeable by thirteen or more of the Directors, can be annulled by a Majority in numbers of the residing Members of that Council, which is appointed, by the express words of the commission, to aid and assist him in the administration of his Government, and these Members (as I apprehend) legally suspended; I must confess my idea of the service has been totally wrong, and I have been with many of my fellow servants under an unhappy mistake respecting the powers and privileges by you delegated to a Governor.

Actuated by these sentiments, I could not consistently address Mr. Stratton by the title he has assumed; I could no otherways forward my monthly returns, as paymaster and storekeeper of Chinglepur, than by addressing him as "one who styles himself President of the Council and "Governor of Fort St. George;" as I regarded the legal President and Governor to be no other than the Right Honorable Lord Pigot. For the indecency and impropriety, as they are pleased to term it, of this address, the reigning Administration have thought fit to order me to deliver over the charge of your money and stores, and of my office, to the military officer commanding there, in this instance also deviating from the line of the service, and to suspend me without giving me any charge of a crime, and far less allowing me a reasonable time to answer thereto, or even a copy of the proceedings relative to my suspension, though applied for by me

by Letter, of which I herewith take the liberty of ſending a copy. Thus treating me in the ſevereſt manner, and acting directly contrary to the tenor of what I underſtand to be your expreſs orders in this reſpect, I leave to the deciſion of your Honors, whether my conduct on this occaſion is chargeable with indecency or impropriety, and whether it merits the ſentence which this new authority have been pleaſed to paſs upon me. At all events I ſubmit my caſe to your juſtice and candour for my re-inſtatement in your ſervice, conſcious as I am that no part of my conduct has ever been deficient in fidelity to your intereſt, or obedience to your commands.

I cannot avoid this favourable opportunity of returning my moſt ſincere and grateful thanks to your Honors for my appointment to the ſucceſſion of the Paymaſterſhip of Ellore, a mark of the favour of my Honorable Maſters, which now affords me a flattering reflection under the injury which I at preſent ſuſtain, and in the hope that your candour, and the merits of a courſe of thirteen years ſervice in the different departments in which I have ſerved, will ſuperſede the ſentence of a ſet of men, whom I defy in any point whatever to accuſe me of diſobedience or neglect of duty.

I have the honor to be with profound reſpect,

Honorable,

Your faithful humble ſervant,

Fort St. George,
21ſt September 1776.

R^T. D^N MUNRO.

Encloſure in Mr. Dalrymple's Packet. Received over-land 7th April 1777.

Copy of Mr. Ruſſell's account of what paſſed in the Fort the 24th Auguſt 1776.

ON Saturday the 24th inſtant, between eight and nine o'clock at night, " Intelligence having been brought to the Governor's Garden-houſe, where

" I then was, that Lord Pigot had been carried off a prifoner to the " Mount, I immediately haftened to the Fort, accompanied by J. M. " Stone, Efq. where I found the town in confufion, and was told " that Mr. Stratton and Sir Robert Fletcher, with others, had taken " poffeffion of the Council Room. On drawing near the parade, it " being moon-light, I obferved it was crouded with officers and others, " as well Europeans as Blacks, and a number of carriages at the Fort " Square Gate. Meeting foon after with the Fort-Major, Captain Wood, " he informed me that thofe Gentlemen had declared themfelves the " Adminiftration, and that he had been fent to the main-guard for en- " deavouring to keep the troops to their duty. I then directed Lieutenant " Perdergaft, the Fort-Adjutant, who had juft joined us, to go to the " officer of the main-guard (Captain Adair) and tell him that it was my " orders, in the abfence of Lord Pigot, to have his men ftand imme- " diately to their arms; but obferving that he (Captain Adair) hefitated, I " went myfelf to him and repeated my orders in perfon, telling him that " he would reflect on the confequences of a refufal, as in the abfence of " Lord Pigot, whofe guard he commanded, I muft be confidered his com- " manding officer; he (Captain Adair) ftill hefitated, and muttering " fomething about the Commander in Chief, I afked him if he had " received any contradictory orders from the Commander in Chief, " and by whom they were delivered; Captain Adair replied, in " a confufed manner, that Colonel Stuart had *delivered him orders*; " during this a croud of officers had affembled around us, and on my in- " fifting with Captain Adair that my orders fhould be complied with, " Lieutenant-Colonel Edington, Adjutant-General, and Captain Barclay " came up to me, and, with great profeffions of refpect for my perfon, " recommended to me as moft prudent to go my houfe; I told them my " duty called me where I was, or words to that effect; and in the mean " while, whether by Captain Adair's orders or not, I do not know, great " part of the guard ftood to their arms; and as I was advancing to get " in front of them, Colonel Stuart came up to me feemingly much " agitated, faying, you muft go with me *to* Council, or *before* Council;

" my

" my answer was, that I was not under his orders, but that he at that time " was under mine, and that I should certainly not go where he directed, or " words to that effect; Colonel Stuart upon this seized me by the breast of " my coat, calling out for *Orderlies*, at the same time Lieutenant-Colonel " Edington and Captain Barclay each seized me by an arm, and these " gentlemen were forcibly dragging me along, when I called to the " Captain of the main-guard for assistance, but in vain; though I " did observe several of the grenadiers advance from the ranks towards us, " which seemed to alarm Colonel Stuart so much that he quitted his hold " of me, and run back to push them into their ranks with oaths and threats; " after effecting this, he (Colonel Stuart) returned to assist Colonel Eding- " ton and Captain Barclay, by laying hold of my wrist, and calling for an " orderly serjeant to push me behind; continuing to make all the resistance " in my power, I was by main force dragged by Colonel Stuart, Lieutenant- " Colonel Edington, and Captain Barclay, with the assistance of the Orderly " Serjeant, to the Council Room, where were sitting George Stratton, Esq. " Sir Robert Fletcher, Francis Jourdan, George Mackay, Charles Floyer, " Henry Brooke, and Archdale Palmer, Esquires, and Mr. Henry Norris " attending; Colonel Stuart led me in by the arm, and shutting the door, " he addressed himself to the above gentlemen, saying, that I had so strong " an arm that he was out of breath, and must beg time to recover it be- " fore he could explain the cause of my being before them. Upon this I " required to know whether I was a prisoner or not; Sir Robert Fletcher " (I think it was) answered that I was not a prisoner, and I was therefore " going to retire, but upon opening the door Colonel Stuart run up to me " and slapped it to: upon my representing the indecency of this behavi- " our to Mr. Stratton, who seemed to be the President, the Colonel pleaded " in excuse, that he wished me to be present while he related to the Council " (for such he called them) what had passed. He (Colonel Stuart) then " dictated, while Mr. Jourdan minuted, a declamation about my exciting " mutiny, and related the circumstances of his seizing me with tolerable " accuracy, [only] that he makes no mention of the violent and powerful " assistance given him by Lieutenant-Colonel Edington, Captain Barclay,

" and the Orderly. When the Colonel had finiſhed, Mr. Stratton aſked
" what I had to ſay in anſwer; to which I replied, that I denied their autho-
" rity and ſhould ſay nothing, or words to that effect. Mr. Mackay and
" Mr. Jourdan then went round to the oppoſite ſide of the table, and after
" ſome converſation with Sir Robert Fletcher and Mr. Floyer, Sir Robert
" propoſed, before I ſhould retire, that a Letter which would ſhortly be
" ſent might be read to me; but this I objected to, declaring that I
" would not liſten to any thing at that Board, whoſe authority I denied.
" Mr. Stratton however riſing up, began to read a paper, ſuppoſed to be
" the Letter in queſtion, but ſtopped upon my calling to him by name
" that I would not hear him. Sir Robert then moved, that the contents
" ſhould be told me, which Mr. Stratton then declared to be, that they
" had ſuſpended me the Company's ſervice; and orders were given in my
" hearing to Colonel Stuart to declare the ſame immediately on the parade.
" I thereupon retired, and immediately returned to the Governor's gar-
" dens.

(Signed) "CLAUD RUSSELL."

Madraſs, 31ſt Auguſt 1776.

Sworn to before me,

(Signed) JOHN TURING, Mayor.

The Information of Claud Ruſſell, Eſq.

"THIS informant ſaith, that on Sunday the 25th, being at the Mount,
" Major Horne, commanding officer there, gave him to peruſe an order
" he (the Major) had received that morning, ſigned George Stratton,
" Henry Brooke, Robert Fletcher, Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer,
" Francis Jourdan, and George Mackay, and that the laſt paragraph of
" of the ſaid Order was in theſe words; *As the laſt reſource, in caſe of*
" *an attempt to reſcue Lord Pigot, his life muſt anſwer it, and this you will*
" *ſignify to him.*"

This

This informant further ſaith, That the ſame Order was, ſome days afterwards, produced to Sir Edward Hughes, the Commander in Chief of his Majeſty's ſhips in India, in preſence of Lord Pigot, the Honorable Edward Monckton, Alexander Dalrymple, and this informant.

Madraſs, 31ſt Auguſt.

Sworn to before me,

(Signed) JOHN TURING, Mayor.

N. B. After it had been ſhewn to Lord Pigot, &c. in Sir Edward Hughes's preſence, I wrote upon a bit of paper the words to the beſt of my recollection, and without ſhewing this to Mr. Ruſſell I deſired him to do the ſame, which he did, and on comparing them we agreed; however Lord Pigot inſiſts that he is very ſure the words are—

"As your laſt reſource, in any attempt to reſcue Lord Pigot, his life "muſt anſwer for it, and this you will ſignify to him."

Encloſure in Mr. Dalrymple's Packet. Received over-land 7th of April 1777.

To the Right Honorable Lord Pigot, Preſident, &c. Claud Ruſſell, Alexander Dalrymple, and John Maxwell Stone, Eſqrs. of Council at Fort St. George.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

WE whoſe names are underwritten, being of Council, and conſtituting a Majority hereof, taking into our moſt ſerious conſideration the proceedings upon record at the two laſt meetings, and more particularly the unexampled outrage offered to the conſtitution, and arbitrary behaviour towards two of our Members, by an illegal attempt to ſuſpend them, in order by a trick to gain a Majority, are of opinion that the public ſafety is in danger by the conduct of Lord Pigot and you gentlemen who have ſupported, and by every perſon who ſhall continue to ſupport ſuch meaſures, and we ſhall hold you therefore reſponſible for all the conſequences that may enſue. We, the Majority of the Board, do conſider ourſelves as the only legal repreſentatives of the Honorable Company under this Preſidency, and as ſuch we have no doubt but all the ſervants of the Company will regard us.

Conſcious of having done our duty to the Company, we remain,

Honorable,

Your faithful humble Servants,

Madraſs,
22d September 1776.

CLAUD RUSSELL,
A. DALRYMPLE.
J. M. STONE.

Letter from George Stratton, Esquire to the Chairman of the Honorable the East-India Company, dated Fort St. George, 21ſt September 1776, and Poſtſcripts of the 25th and 26th of September 1776. Received from the Chairman 2d April 1777.

SIR,

BY the General Letter ſent in this ſhip, the Grenville, you will be informed of the change of Government that has happened at this Preſidency, which could not poſſibly be avoided or delayed, unleſs the Majority of the Council would have ſacrificed the welfare of the Company, together with their own perſonal ſafety, and the honor of our faithful ally the Nabob, to the arbitrary and unjuſtifiable attempts of Lord Pigot. In a few words, ſeven Members of the Board, to prevent theſe ſeveral alarming conſequences, have removed his Lordſhip from the Government, and have ſuſpended Meſſ. Ruſſell, Dalrymple, Stone, and Lathom, from the ſervice for ſupporting him in thoſe illegal meaſures. I ſhall attempt to give you a ſummary of our proceedings from December 1775, in hopes that the rectitude of our conduct throughout this affair, eſpecially our conſtant moderation, will meet with your approbation, and induce you to give your warmeſt ſupport to a meaſure that was founded on the intereſt of the Company, and the honor of the nation in general. I am very much afraid that in the courſe of this Letter I muſt, in juſtification of myſelf, ſometimes appear to reflect too ſeverely upon the private as well as the public character of Lord Pigot; my former regard and reſpect for him renders this a very diſagreeable taſk, but I muſt either point out the ſecret motives by which he was actuated, and thereby exculpate myſelf, or elſe, by an improper delicacy towards him, I muſt injure myſelf, and alſo ſacrifice the intereſt of the public.

The general ſatisfaction in this Settlement upon his Lordſhip's arrival, and the harmony and unanimity that ſubſiſted at the Board for ſome time afterwards, muſt convince every unprejudiced perſon that we were all ſincerely rejoiced at his appointment. We even paid ſome compliments to him

that we could not juſtiſy to our conſtituents upon any other grounds than by ſaying, it was better to give up trifles than to obſtruct public buſineſs by ſowing the ſeed of conſtant diſſenſion amongſt ourſelves. It appears to me that his Lordſhip miſunderſtood theſe laudable motives of our condeſcenſion for a pre-determined paſſive obedience to all his dictates. The language he uſed to us at the Board, his behaviour to the Nabob at the Durbar, and the various important affairs he undertook to tranſact without our knowledge or concurrence, but above all his total neglect of public buſineſs, obliged us, however unwilling, to adopt a new mode of behaviour. Every Member of the Board moſt ſincerely wiſhed to carry the orders of the Court of Directors into execution relative to Tanjore; but the unaccountable delays about this time not only gave us great reaſon to complain, but the indignity with which he treated us gave us the greateſt concern, as it lowered us in the eyes of the Settlement, he having often made it a practice of ſummoning the Council at Ten, and while we were waiting for him ſome hours, he was amuſing himſelf at the gardens. What other reaſon could he have for thus treating his Council with ſo much contempt, and delaying buſineſs of the greateſt importance, but to ſhew that he did not think their concurrence neceſſary to arbitrary meaſures, which he had determined at all events to purſue, and to the execution of which he was reſolved not to admit of any oppoſition.

His Lordſhip during three months, from the middle of December to March, ſeldom condeſcended to report to the Board the reſult of his daily conferences with the Nabob on the Tanjore buſineſs (indeed I believe none of his reports were ever thought of conſequence to record). Surprized at his ſilence on this important ſubject, I was at length deputed by ſeveral Members of the Council to requeſt he would inform the Board what progreſs he had made towards carrying the orders of the Company into execution. He was apparently diſpleaſed at being thus publicly called upon, and ſoon after declared, that as he found the Nabob was trifling with him, he was determined to leave the Preſidency, and finiſh this buſineſs at Tanjore in perſon. Such a reſolution ſurprized us, but induced, by the high reſpect we wiſh

wish to pay to all the orders received from home, and earnestly desirous that those which came by the Grenville should be immediately fulfilled, we gave our consent, not thinking that any concealed dislike to the Nabob, or any consideration of a private nature, could influence his Lordship's conduct; but experience has shewn that we were mistaken in these conjectures. His Lordship has sacrificed the honor of the Company to an erroneous opinion of his personal authority over the Nabob, to the gratification of his personal resentment against him, to an absurd idea of his being independent of his Council, and to the improvement of his private fortune.

Before his departure for Tanjore some debates arose at the Board relative to his military authority when absent from the Presidency. In this affair I joined with the Majority of the Board in reposing great confidence in his conduct, by conferring upon him a power of commanding the troops in every garrison where he should occasionally reside. In acting thus we perhaps deviated from the instructions of the Court of Directors, but we were willing to gratify Lord Pigot in every respect that might render him sensible of our confidence, especially as we hoped by such means to forward the designs of his journey. When his Lordship arrived on the borders of the Tanjore country, he wrote to the Nabob, returning him thanks for the attention he had met with in the road from all the servants of his government. This Letter gave us great satisfaction, as such an appearance of harmony subsisting between the Nabob and Lord Pigot seemed to promise a speedy and happy conclusion of this business. Almost the first news of his Lordship's proceedings came to us from the Nabob, who complained of a troop of European Cavalry being sent to Arialoor, a fort belonging to the Nabob, to seize on one of his servants, who was in possession of all his papers and accounts both public and private. We were very much astonished at this violation of our treaty with the Nabob, when Lord Pigot could not be a stranger to the 22d paragraph of the Grenville's Letter, wherein the Directors say, "That they "fear it is impracticable to obtain a statement of the Nabob's receipts "and disbursements of the revenues of the Tanjore country;" which implies, that they did not think themselves authorized to obtain them by mili-

tary

tary force. But guess our astonishment, Sir, when we found that his Lordship, so far from apologizing to the Nabob for his conduct, declared, "That "if the gates of Arialoor, or any other gates in the Payen Gaut should be "shut against the troops of the Company, when they asked admission *by* "*his authority*, it would be an improper return *to the man who had put* "*his Highness in possession of them*."

When his Lordship thus arrogated to himself the sole merit of our successes in the last war, and upbraided an ally of the crown with personal ingratitude to him, no wonder he should consider himself superior to the control of his Council and Constituents, and therefore assume to himself unlimited powers, which happily, and particularly in this instance, the freedom of our constitution denies to any individual. I could repeat many other acts of violence committed by his Lordship during his expedition to the southward, but as they are most of them entered on our records, they are acts that need no comment. The labour and artifice even of Mr. *Dalrymple* has been lost in attempting to explain them away. When his Lordship returned from Tanjore, the business being finished, we expected that all his animosity to the Nabob would subside; on the contrary his resentment became personal. He seldom mentioned his name in public or in private without adding some epithet in the highest degree illiberal and indecent, and at the same time speaking of the Rajah of Tanjore with the most flattering encomiums. Although the Majority of the Board were extremely concerned to find his Lordship influenced by prejudice and partiality, yet, whilst the effect of these passions were felt only in words, which could not cause any immediate dangerous consequences, we could do no more than silently lament his unaccountable indiscretion, and prepared to guard against it. In a very short time afterwards his actions called upon us to interpose, lest the Nabob might mistake the party and violent measures of the President for the deliberate acts of Government, which he must naturally conclude originated in orders sent from the Court of Directors.

The first alarm we received was a Letter from Sir Edward Hughes, informing us that the Nabob had claimed the protection of his Majesty's

6 flag,

flag, in conſequence of Lord Pigot's threats to place an European guard at the gates of his garden. This proceeded from a conference his Lordſhip had with the Nabob, when he requeſted, in the moſt flattering and ſoothing terms, that he would write him a Letter (a draft of which he preſented to him) expreſſing the moſt perfect approbation of his conduct in all tranſactions ſince his arrival, but particularly at Tanjore. It was impoſſible for the Nabob to comply with his requeſt, for he had repeatedly wrote to Bengal complaining of the behaviour of Lord Pigot. At this refuſal his Lordſhip grew outrageous, and ſwore he would immediately place an European guard over him. If Lord Pigot was ſatisfied with his own behaviour, why did he take ſuch trouble in obtaining this Letter, by doing of which he was conſcious of having acted improperly; or on what pretence could he make ſuch a demand? This affair was followed by another no leſs inconſiſtent with that reſpect and friendſhip due to the Nabob, conſidered as the Soubah of the Carnatic and an ally to the Crown. Lord Pigot being informed by a ſpy, one of his menial ſervants, that the Nabob was ſending into the country an old woman, one of his own ſubjects, under a guard, with an intention to confine her, his Lordſhip ordered a party of Seapoys to march and receive the priſoner, which was accordingly done at St. Thome, though they firſt went into the Nabob's garden, and ſo much alarmed the Nabob's ſons, that they immediately hurried with what people they had to protect their father, whom they thought was to be made a priſoner. In giving this order his Lordſhip violated our treaty with the Nabob; he violated the laws of our country, in making uſe of a military force againſt a prince not ſubject to our authority; he violated the Orders of the Company, in taking a ſtep of ſuch importance to their affairs without the concurrence of the Council; and he violated the rules of decency and good manners, in ſubjecting the Nabob's wives and family to the inſult of a ſet of men rendered inſolent by acting under his Lordſhip's ſanction and authority. Unprecedented and important as theſe ſteps of his Lordſhip's appear to be, he never reported them to the Board, nor ſhould we have heard of them, if the Nabob, who expected every day to ſee people breaking into his private apartments (a diſhonor he would not ſurvive) had not on that account applied to Sir Edward Hughes

for protection. When Lord Pigot was asked at the Board to explain the motives of these violent proceedings, he did not hesitate to declare, that he meant to station an European guard over the Nabob, to bring to him all Europeans who should dare to visit him. The reason he assigned for sending Seapoys after the old woman was equally unjust, frivolous, and absurd; to prevent the Nabob, who possesses an uncontrolled power over his subjects, from sending any person whatever out of these districts without his knowledge. Admitting the Nabob was amenable to our laws, which no man in his senses can suppose, what right had his Lordship, by military force, to be guilty of a violence against the Nabob, that he could not legally have shewn against any subject of Great Britain? But the privileges of Princes and the rights of individuals are held in no estimation by a person of his Lordship's arbitrary disposition. In the midst of these disputes, whilst the mind of the Nabob was under the most violent agitation from the frequent insults he received, and in constant apprehension of having them repeated, his Lordship received news from the Cape of Good Hope and Pondicherry that a rupture was expected with France; this intelligence he did not think proper to communicate to the Board, in all probability apprehensive that we should recommend to him to behave with more moderation towards the Nabob; for he must be sensible, that if the Nabob should be dissatisfied towards us, or even be cool in our interest, during a French war, our inevitable destruction must ensue. I certainly do not pay too great a compliment to his discernment in saying this; the truth and propriety of my opinion must be obvious to every person who is acquainted with our situation in this country. When the Majority of the Board found that mild remonstrances had no effect, and when, by an indirect channel, they were informed of the probability of a war, they thought it their duty to lose no time in attempting to conciliate the mind of the Nabob, and to convince him, that all the mortification he had lately suffered were solely owing to the personal resentment of Lord Pigot. The Records will shew, that every Member of the Majority most earnestly wished to support Lord Pigot in all legal measures, and to regulate their conduct solely by the honor and in-

tereſt of the Company; no perſonal pique, no hopes of perſonal advantage, had the ſmalleſt influence in any one meaſure we adopted. I ſhould be happy if regard to truth and juſtice would allow me to ſay as much for his Lordſhip; but in the courſe of this Letter I flatter myſelf I ſhall prove, that perſonal intereſt only has influenced Lord Pigot's conduct, from the inſtant he propoſed returning to India to the preſent time. If I was as much his Lordſhip's enemy as perhaps he deſerves, I ſhould in this place enter into an examination of his former conduct in this country, and attack that great reputation for diſintereſtedneſs which he acquired during his former government; but I ſhall let him enjoy it, unleſs he ſhall hereafter oblige me to ſpeak more plainly, and for the preſent confine myſelf to thoſe particulars which relate to his late miſconduct.

When his Lordſhip left this country in the year 1763, the Nabob promiſed to allow him 12,000 Pagodas per annum in England for reaſons beſt known to himſelf; he continued this money for ſome time until the Nabob wrote a Letter excuſing himſelf, by repreſenting that his finances would not allow him to do it; but when he was informed that Lord Pigot was expected to be appointed Governor, or after his Lordſhip's arrival here, he paid into the hands of Meſſrs. Stone and Monckon, on his account, bills to the value of 125,000 Pagodas, which it is believed greatly exceeds any balance due on the ſuppoſed penſion. His Lordſhip kept poſſeſſion of this money, until by ſome means or other this tranſaction had taken air, and he was apprehenſive that his treatment of the Nabob, after what had paſſed at Tanjore, would bring matters to light, the conſequence of which he well knew, and led him therefore to make a tender of the money back to the Nabob, who refuſed taking it. The acceptance of this preſent Lord Pigot does not deny; but he endeavours to exculpate himſelf by declaring, that he would not have received any money but theſe ſums, that were due to him previous to the late Act of Parliament. This evaſion I preſume will not have much weight with the Company, who cannot admit of ſuch nice diſtinctions

tinctions without appearing to give countenance to tranſactions of very dangerous tendency. We have not yet mentioned this circumſtance, as it has not yet come before us.

In all probability his Lordſhip will think that he has prevented a proſecution, and ſuppreſſed every ſuſpicion of venality, by offering to return the Nabob's money; it might perhaps extenuate the fault, if he had not, as I am informed, received bonds and orders from the Rajah of Tanjore to an amazing amount; and that the Rajah's mother had given him two diamonds, the one flat and ſquare, the other thick and of an oval form, both of great value.

My Lord Pigot, or his Dubaſh, has placed ſome of his loweſt dependents in the entire government of the Rajah; as a proof, the leading man, under whom the government of this valuable country is placed, is one Oppoo, a Conicoply, who had been a clerk in the works here under Colonel Roſs at 24 Shillings per month; and it is known to be a fact, that every man of conſequence or family in the Tanjore country are excluded from the Rajah's preſence, and he therefore ſees only things through this Oppoo, who was placed there by Moodoo Kiſtnah. Under theſe circumſtances you cannot be ſuprized if the legal proof cannot by this diſpatch be brought forward.

The orders from the Court of Directors for the reſtoration of the Rajah are clear and poſitive, but at the ſame time they certainly wiſhed to have them executed, if poſſible, without giving any uneaſineſs or diſpleaſure to the Nabob; this much was due to his honor and long attachment to us, and even to a regard for our own reputation; for if we could not in ſome degree make it appear a voluntary act of his own, the country powers muſt be aſtoniſhed at our apparent fickleneſs, in aiding the Nabob to take Tanjore, and immediately afterwards, although we acted as allies, and not as principals in the war, to deprive him of a conqueſt made by our aſſiſtance. I mention this, not to reflect on the conduct of thoſe who gave the orders, but on his Lordſhip who abuſed the power

delegated to him to carry them into execution, and wantonly to insult the Nabob, even after the Company were in possession of Tanjore. All his Lordship's transactions there testify not only dislike, but the most violent rancour against the Nabob, and also a strong and sudden predilection in favour of the Rajah. In the perusal of our proceedings, from the month of April to the 23d August, you will observe the utmost moderation and forbearance on the part of the Majority; but Lord Pigot was determined not to admit of any opposition to the two following proposals, which he laid before the Board, and on the establishment of which all his prospects depended: "That we should purchase the crop of grain then growing on the Tanjore country; and that we should appoint a Chief and Council or Resident to remain continually with the Rajah." Both these proposals were made with so much art that some of us thought of acceding to them; but when we considered that the crop was sown at the Nabob's expense; that the country belonged to him by right of conquest, when those lands were cultivated; that he would be greatly distressed by the loss of so much money, and consequently not able to make good his payment to the Company and his other creditors; that he had assigned over the crop to discharge a debt which he had contracted with individuals for the expenses of the war and the improvement of the country; and that the appointment of a Chief and Council was repugnant both to the sense and spirit of the Company's orders, particularly in the 7th paragraph of their separate Letter per Grenville: All these considerations (against which his Lordship did not oppose any reasonable argument, and nevertheless continued deaf to all our remonstrances) awakened our suspicions. We began to perceive that there must be some concealed motives for his inflexible obstinacy, and therefore determined to avail ourselves of being the Majority of the Board to counteract his interested designs. So many persons are acquainted with all money transactions in this country, that those of a most private nature generally become public. Whilst we were at a loss to account for his Lordship's conduct, the report arose that the Rajah had made him large presents; this at once accounted for all his Lordship's behaviour, his dislike to the Nabob, his affection for the Rajah; his designs of taking the grain from the Nabob to

ſupply the Rajah with money, and his wiſh to appoint Mr. Ruſſell (attached to him by the ſtrongeſt ties) nominally the Company's Chief, but, as we believe, his Lordſhip's Agent to realize the bonds the Rajah had given him, when the Rajah ſhould be paid for the grain bought; and as an increaſe of our ſuſpicions, it happened much about this time the Rajah applied to us for a Lack of Pagodas, which his Lordſhip ſtrongly recommended ſhould be ſent to him.

Whilſt theſe affairs were in agitation, and every other buſineſs neglected, Colonel Stuart arrived from England, with the rank of ſecond in command in the Army: the choice made of this Gentleman by the Court of Directors to ſucceed Sir Robert Fletcher, in preference to any of the Field Officers already in India, was a convincing proof of their opinion of his ſuperior abilities; this, as well as his rank, entitled him to the command of Tanjore, where it was neceſſary to have an Officer of abilities and experience, to give the Rajah a favourable opinion of our Government, to convince him of the advantages he would derive from his connexion with us, but above all, to counteract the deſigns of the French, who, in caſe of a war, would probably make the firſt attack againſt this place. In our motives for appointing this Gentleman, whom we thought equal to this important truſt, we conſidered partly the nature of that private influence, which, from the letter and ſpirit of your inſtructions, we clearly perceived was not to be exerted by any deputy from the Board, under the denomination of a Chief or Reſident, to interfere in the Council or civil government of the Rajah, and bring on thoſe evils which experience had ſhewn been attended with ſuch fatal conſequences in Bengal, after the revolution brought on there by Lord Clive; but rather, by being maſter of his capital with a garriſon, having at its head a man of diſcretion and prudence, the Company's intereſt in eſſentials ſhould not ſuffer a foreign power to be introduced into that country, important from its ſituation reſpecting European powers, to be led by Durbar intrigue, or private adviſers near the Rajah.—In ſhort, this was the utmoſt of our wiſh, not to make

make his ſubjects a prey to European influence in the interior management of his country.

Lord Pigot declared repeatedly both public and private, that Colonel Stuart ſhould never be appointed until Mr. Ruſſell was nominated Chief or Reſident; this declaration opened our eyes, and at the ſame time brought our diſputes with his Lordſhip to a criſis. The conteſt was no longer if Mr. Ruſſell or Colonel Stuart ſhould go to Tanjore, but whether his Lordſhip ſhould ſubvert the ſyſtem of the ſervice, and aſſume to himſelf the uncontrolled authority of Government. We had already paid too many compliments to his Lordſhip, and too frequently, in doing ſo, had tranſgreſſed the orders of the Company, although we had hitherto been cautious that their affairs ſhould not ſuffer eſſentially by our condeſcenſion; but in this caſe, had we not oppoſed him with the greateſt firmneſs, we muſt ſhamefully have neglected our duty to the Company, and given up the reins of Government to a man who was in purſuit of enormous wealth for himſelf, and hurrying his Employers to inevitable deſtruction.—As honeſt men, as faithful ſervants to the Company and the public, no choice was left us. When Colonel Stuart's appointment was agreed to by a Majority of the Board, and his inſtructions were laid before us by the Commander in Chief, Lord Pigot tacitly approved, but deſired time to conſider of them. After ſome days no notice being taken of them, Sir Robert Fletcher being indiſpoſed, ſent others more full and complete,—particularly mentioning that article of the Company's inſtructions by the Grenville, where it is directed "not to interfere in the civil government of the Rajah."—When the Motion for the approval of theſe inſtructions was made, Lord Pigot refuſed to put the Queſtion, and immediately adjourned the Council.—The next day his Lordſhip perſiſted in his refuſal, declaring, at the ſame time, that he would not ſuffer this Queſtion to be agitated again.—The inſtructions being approved by the Majority, and copied fair, were preſented to his Lordſhip to be ſigned, but he poſitively refuſed, and adjourned the Council.—The next day, finding that Lord Pigot was inflexible, and that he would not liſten

to our arguments on this ſubject, we, the Majority, agreed that the Secretary ſhould ſign the inſtructions by *order of Council,* and accordingly gave this opinion *in writing, and at his Lordſhip's particular requeſt*, to which we all ſigned our names; but Lord Pigot addreſſing himſelf to me directly after, in a familiar manner ſaid, *that we ſhould indemnify the Secretary, by giving him a direct order to ſign the Letter to Colonel Stuart*, BY ORDER OF COUNCIL. The Majority did not ſee the neceſſity of this, and declared ſo; but his Lordſhip urging us to do it in the ſtrongeſt terms, a paper, to the ſame effect of that which he had before ſigned, was drawn out with only this alteration, "*that it directed the Secretary to ſign the inſtructions by order* "*of Council.*" This paper was read to his Lordſhip, and being ſoon after wrote fair, I was on the point of ſigning it at the lower end of the table; but his Lordſhip coming in, called upon me to take my ſeat; I did ſo with the fair paper in my hand—he aſked me what it was? I told him it was a fair copy of the order *he wiſhed* the Majority to give to the Secretary, and then read it to him, and immediately after ſigned it; I then gave it to Mr. Brooke, who ſat on my right hand, who alſo placed his name to it; and he was on the point of giving it to Mr. Floyer, who ſat next to him, when his Lordſhip took it out of Mr. Brooke's hand, and putting it in his pocket, produced a charge he had already prepared (I underſtand ſome days before) declaring therein that Mr. Brooke and myſelf, "Were guilty of an act ſubverſive of the authority of Government, and tending to introduce anarchy *in ſigning the order to the Secretary to give* inſtructions to Colonel Stuart, which had not being approved and paſſed by the Preſident and Council;"— this having been read, he ſoon after moved that we ſhould be ſuſpended the ſervice, which was agreed to by Meſſieurs Ruſſell, Dalrymple, and Stone, notwithſtanding the Majority, previous thereto, propoſed an adjournment; but no ſooner did he carry this point but he broke up from the Council, though many Members called upon him that they had buſineſs to propoſe. It is neceſſary to obſerve, that in this ſuppoſed ſuſpenſion Lord Pigot voted, though the accuſer, and by his caſting voice ſucceeded; that he would not ſuffer either Mr. Brooke or myſelf to give

our

our voice on the queſtion propoſed for our ſuſpenſion. The next morning, being the 23d ultimo, Lord Pigot directed the Secretary to ſend round a ſummons for a Council, in which the name of Mr. Brooke and myſelf were omitted; therefore Sir Robert Fletcher, Meſſieurs Floyer, Palmer, Jourdan, and Mackay refuſed to attend, it being no longer a Council acting under the Company's commiſſion, but an unconſtitutional faction entirely devoted to his Lordſhip. We firſt had reſource to thoſe meaſures which the law directs to be taken in theſe caſes, by ſending a proteſt againſt all his Lordſhip's proceedings by a Notary Public; this our moderation produced the ſuſpenſion of Meſſieurs Floyer, Palmer, Jourdan, and Mackay, and at the ſame time, the Town-Major was ſent by this Minority of the Council to Sir Robert Fletcher to put him under an arreſt for a capital crime, and the Town-Adjutant with the general orders to Colonel Stuart, appointing him Commander in Chief of the Forces. The Government thus diſſolved, Sir Robert Fletcher threatened to be tried by military law for his life, and for his conduct as a Member of the Board, gave every one of us the greateſt reaſon to be apprehenſive of our perſonal ſafety, as well as for the ſafety of the Settlement in general; knowing alſo the ſecret motives by which his Lordſhip was actuated, and convinced that he would make uſe of the power he had aſſumed to effect purpoſes highly detrimental to the intereſt of the Company, we were called upon by our duty to ourſelves and our conſtituents to exert ourſelves to wreſt the power from the hands of his Lordſhip, and to endeavour to reſtore the public tranquillity. At this time, when the arreſt was intimated to Sir Robert Fletcher, he was in a dying way, unable to raiſe himſelf from his couch; we conſidered therefore Colonel Stuart, in virtue of your powers, as the acting Commander in Chief when this ſuppoſed arreſt took place, and, *as the legal Government veſted in the Majority of the Board by his Majeſty's Charter*, we gave him our orders and inſtructions accordingly. From a ſenſe of his duty he made no difficulty to obey our orders, and by his uncommon addreſs and firmneſs greatly contributed to avert all the evils impending over this Government, by preparing matters here with ſecrecy and expedition, and by putting Lord Pigot in arreſt under the care of an

officer of great prudence and discretion (commanding at the Mount) whom he had selected and previously prepared for that purpose. To prevent the possibility of any disturbance happening by Lord Pigot's residing near the Presidency, we have repeatedly requested him to remove to one of the Subordinates, or to go to Europe; but he declines accepting of our offer, and declares publicly, if he was released, or could escape from his confinement, he would immediately *come to the Fort*; and, if he could be re-established in his government, that he would hang Colonel Stuart, Colonel Edington, and Captain Lysaught. Such declarations as these oblige us, however unwilling, still to keep his Lordship in arrest at the Mount, to prevent the effect of his desperate madness. He is there treated with every mark of respect, and has his family and friends continually with him. If I have omitted any arguments for the necessity of putting Lord Pigot under arrest, I trust that you will find them fully stated in the public dispatch, and that you will be convinced, not only of this necessity, but likewise the reasons of state which oblige us still to keep a watch over him; and which I privately say to you, and in the utmost confidence, not having as yet communicated the same to the Council, will oblige us to send him to be judged by you our constituents; for I say to you, that public business cannot properly be carried on while he remains in the country; and this is not only my opinion, but the opinions of the Nabob and every Member of the Board, and we wait on this important point for the opinion of the Governor-General and Council.

Here I beg leave to request your attention to the following points.—— Lord Pigot's proclamation at Tanjore, not to give protection or rice to the Nabob's people; and if any person gave shelter to any of his servants, he should be considered as criminal.——His Lordship's behaviour to Abran Khan, Nizam ul din Khan, Ally din Khan, and other people of consequence belonging to the Nabob, whom he insulted with single guards belonging to the Company, in the face of 6000 men under their command belonging to the Nabob, who had given particular orders on no account to make any resistance.

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The countenance and protection Lord Pigot gave to many servants belonging to the Nabob, but especially to his son-in-law Khire ul din Khan, who is largely indebted to his Highness, and also to European shopkeepers.—His Lordship invited this dissipated young man to fly from the Nabob, to live in a house hired by him in our Black Town, and surrounded by our Seapoys, to raise a suspicion that the Nabob intended to murder him.—All this is contrary to a former agreement between this Government and the Nabob, who makes it a point to apprehend and return every deserter or fugitive from this place; and unless we had his friendship on this occasion, we might ever expect great desertion among the European soldiers.—Besides, should not this agreement be binding on our part, every Amuldar or renter under the Nabob, who had the means but not the inclination to pay their arrears, would, by this encouragement, declaredly given by this Government, fly to us for protection to avoid paying their demand.

His Lordship mis-representing the sentiments of the Rajah of Tanjore, and also the state of the magazines in that garrison to the Board; and his Lordship privately altering the Company's records—These and many other facts you will find proved in our Minutes of Consultation, which must set forth his conduct to you in a proper light. And here I must beg leave to observe as a proof, that we had in view your interest and the national honor respecting Lord Pigot's conduct at Tanjore, as well as with respect to the Nabob. The fortunate concurrence of ideas of the Governor-General and Council upon these points, appear clearly by the singular unanimity of these gentlemen in the Letter and Resolutions which go numbered in the Packet. This circumstance in particular has afforded matter of great satisfaction to me; because, in the situation in which the State has placed that Supreme Council, I shall think it my duty to concur with them, and to meet their ideas, when it is not repugnant to the Company's orders and instructions.

Thus, Sir, I have given you a summary of what has passed on this occasion, and the various causes which gave rise to this change in the Government,

ment, very improperly called by ſome a Revolution. I flatter myſelf every unprejudiced perſon will approve of what has been done. On reflection on what has paſſed, I confeſs we were to blame not to have acted at firſt with more ſpirit, when we perceived the leading principles of Lord Pigot's conduct: we allowed him to dictate ſo long, that the evil became inveterate, and the remedy to be effectual muſt neceſſarily be beyond the common rules.

His Lordſhip's friends, taking advantage of the remembrance of his former ſervices, doubtleſs will attempt to injure us in the opinion of our conſtituents, and endeavour to influence their judgment; but I flatter myſelf an inſinuation only, unſupported by proof, will have no effect. If I had the ſame cupidity for money and ſuch boundleſs ambition as Lord Pigot, my fortune, acquired by a ſervice of upwards of twenty-five years, might have been greatly increaſed, and, inſtead of my preſent competency, I ſhould have made, like his Lordſhip, half a million ſterling.

I make no doubt but his Lordſhip will accuſe us of partiality to the Nabob. Do our proceedings ſhew any thing like it? Have we ever given up any one point to him contrary to the Orders of the Company, or even paid any compliments to him but thoſe due to his rank? Had we acted otherwiſe we ſhould have failed in our duty; but in particular ſhould we not now in good policy, when the Fortreſs of Tanjore is garriſoned by the Company's troops, when all cauſe of temptation for independence on his part is removed, when we ought to reconcile him by little and little to his preſent ſituation, now the ſtrength of Britain is employed at ſuch a diſtance as to deprive us of immediate ſupport from thence; ought we not, I ſay, on all theſe accounts, to treat the Nabob of the Carnatic with every degree of reſpect, regard, and attention, particularly when ſo ordered by Letters and Inſtructions from home? Good policy as well as humanity dictate ſuch a conduct to us.

I presume that Lord Pigot will impute the part which I have taken to desire of being in the Chair: if this consideration could have had any weight with me, I should have acted otherwise; for I am convinced, had I attached myself to Lord Pigot, and assisted him in realizing his Tanjore bonds, that he would have returned to England in the Grenville. It is a fact that I had no idea of remaining to succeed to the Government; which is well known to many in the Settlement, having sent home my fortune, and was determined to leave India on the Greenwich. My attornies Messieures Pigou and Fitzhugh will testify the truth of this.

Upon the whole, Sir, the Board as well as myself have found it almost next to impossible to bring the complicated, irregular, unconstitutional, and violent conduct of Lord Pigot under any one, two, or three heads of charges; I must therefore beg, that you and the gentlemen will view it in the general line. We wish most sincerely to have digested the History of his Government, and brought it under some specific charge, to be publickly known to him as well as to his Employers; doubt whether this will be in our power before the ship sails. One thing is clear; we all agree that he has abused the power vested in him, as a Governor and Servant of the Company; and that he has not only justly forfeited that station, but likewise from the despair and madness of the man, and the possibility of his attempting at all risks, by under-hand practices or violence, to recover his *military situation in this garrison.* We have not a doubt but you will approve of our conduct in distinguishing his case from that of the suspended Counsellors; and that we shall be justified in the eyes of our Employers for putting a restraint on his person, until we can concert the proper measures to dispose of him elsewhere; upon this we shall consult with the Governor-General and Council in Bengal,

The hurry of dispatching this ship, of writing to Bengal, transacting the current business, and counteracting his Lordship's secret machinations to cause confusion in the Settlement, must apologize for every inaccuracy you will meet with in this Letter; the facts contained in it you will find,

in our records; they are told in the ſimple language of truth, unadorned with the graces of compoſition; but I flatter myſelf they will not be leſs attended to on that account.

As Sir Edward Hughes intends ſending the Swallow to Suez on the 30th inſtant, you will receive a duplicate of this letter by that conveyance, as well as of our public diſpatches, which will be intruſted to the care of Colonel Capper, who having had the Board's permiſſion to go home on family affairs, voluntarily offered his ſervices to the Council on this important occaſion. He is a gentleman of the greateſt worth, and well acquainted with every concurrence; I muſt therefore take the liberty of not only recommending him to you in the ſtrongeſt manner, but at the ſame time to requeſt you will apply to him for any information you may require reſpecting the unjuſtifiable conduct of Lord Pigot, not mentioned in the public advices or in this letter. As I found it neceſſary that a gentleman ſhould accompany Colonel Capper in caſe of ſickneſs or death, I deſired he would aſk one to accompany him for this purpoſe, and he accordingly requeſted this favour of Mr. Dighton, a young fellow of worth, who ſhewed the greateſt readineſs on this occaſion, though it was attended with much inconveniency to himſelf; and underſtanding that it was the wiſh of every Member of the Council, as well as the intention of Lord Pigot and thoſe we ſuſpended, to recommend him to the Directors, I could not in this caſe heſitate a moment in propoſing to do this in a public letter, and you will oblige me in getting him nominated a Factor in the ſervice. The Nabob and Commodore's advices are alſo intruſted to the care of Colonel Capper with the ſame injunctions, that in caſe of ſickneſs or death they ſhould be given to Mr. Dighton.

This letter I have intruſted to the care of Mr. Bryan Scottney, who goes in the Grenville, a gentleman whom I have long known and have the greateſt regard for; any ſervice therefore that you can with propriety render him I ſhould eſteem it a ſingular favour.

I have

I have only to add my ſincere aſſurances, that I ſhall always make a point in paying every attention to the orders of my Employers, and that nothing ſhall be wanting on my part to promote their intereſt and welfare.

I have the honor to remain,

Sir,

Your moſt obedient humble Servant,

Fort St. George,
21ſt September 1776.

GEO. STRATTON.

John Roberts, Eſquire.

Fort St. George, 25th September 1776.

S I R,

SINCE cloſing our diſpatches, I underſtand that the Nabob has received information with reſpect to the depoſition of Mr. Randall, proving that he was encouraged by Lord Pigot's friends as well as himſelf to make this depoſition, and had money given him for this purpoſe; this information, I underſtand, is given upon oath to the Nabob, by a perſon who was in Mr. Randall's company when the above circumſtances came to his knowledge. If I can procure a copy of this information before the ſhip ſails, I ſhall ſend it encloſed in this letter.

I cannot conclude without giving you every aſſurance, that I ſhall always conduct myſelf in ſuch a manner as to promote the Company's intereſt, and punctually to follow their orders; having the honor to remain with reſpect,

Sir,

Your moſt obedient hnmble ſervant,

GEO. STRATTON.

S I R,

SIR,

SINCE closing the public letter, dated yesterday, we have received a letter addressed to the Board from Mr. Charles Weston, accompanying a declaration with respect to the deposition of Mr. Randall, copies of both which I have the honor to enclose to you herewith, as it will shew you the bad intention of Randall in introducing the circumstances of the visit he paid to Comera. I have reason to believe that Randall, foreseeing the consequence of a law prosecution here, he will by some means or other get home in the Grenville, or some other ship; but if my information be true, the infamy of his character is well known in England.

I am, &c.

27th September 1776.

G. S.

Letter from Henry Brooke, Esquire.

To John Roberts, Esq. or the Chairman for the time being, for the Affairs of the East-India Company, London. Dated Fort St. George, 2d October, 1776; received the 2d April, 1777.

SIR,

The multiplicity of business when the Grenville was dispatched, prevented me at that time from being as full on some parts of our President's conduct as I could wish.

Mr. Floyer having given his vote contrary to the President's opinion, regarding the assignments on the Tanjore country, he turned to him and said, "I see you have given your vote against me, but let me tell you, "Sir, that any man who shall dare to give his voice against me at this Board, "I shall look upon him *as my declared Enemy*; and in case any place of trust "or emolument in the service shall become vacant, he shall never be ap-"pointed thereto, if that appointment shall rest with me," or words to that effect. These were taken down by the President's order on a separate piece of paper by the Secretary; but the Board, out of a desire to pursue moderate measures, did not insist upon their being entered on our records, in the hope that the President would see into the mistaken ideas of his powers; but instead of changing his conduct, he has persevered in the same sentiments; I think myself therefore at liberty to mention this circumstance to you.

The President has not scrupled on all occasions to assert, that we are *his Council*, thereby arrogantly putting himself in the place of the Company, and assuming to himself all their powers.

It is proper to inform you, that many obstructions were thrown in the way by the President to prevent the Company's orders regarding the Committee of Circuit from being carried into execution; and for that purpose he suddenly proposed, that the Chief and Council should be sent to Tanjore, declaring that the Board must determine thereon immediately. Several Members objected to this manner of proceeding, observing, that the subject was new and important, and that they could not give an opinion unless time was allowed them to consider it. The Rajah's fears and

alarms were frequently mentioned by the Prefident, and Mr. Ruffell propofed to proceed thither to quell them.—The Board knew of none, and called upon the Prefident to explain them, but he could not; and from a letter lately received from the Rajah, it appears he never had any, unlefs fuch as the Prefident himfelf might have raifed by the aforefaid propofal; to which it was objected, that as it was the Company's orders, that there fhould not be any interference in the Rajah's Government, the Board could not give their confent; efpecially as Mr. Ruffell was named by the Company to be a Member of the Committee of Circuit, and fhould therefore proceed on that fervice before any other.

I will not infift on the importance of fending Colonel Stuart to Tanjore, though the Prefident has not, nor cannot give any *public reafon* why he fhould not go to that great charge; the matter of more importance was *the doctrine*, which he held at the Board;—That no queftion could or fhould be put, that was not put by himfelf, nor would he put any that was not to his approbation; and that no refolution could be carried into effect that was not alfo approved by him. This was ftriking at the very foundation of the Company's fafety, and rights of the Council, which, if admitted, could not be recalled by us; the virtue and ufe of the Council would have been annihilated, and the whole powers of Government grafped within the hands of the Prefident: It was not therefore the matter of importance, whether this or that man went to Tanjore, but when the Company's interefts and rights of the Council are publicly difcuffed at the Board, it is of the greateft import, that they be maintained according to the rules and conftitution of the Service.—I will beg leave to add, that this matter had been deliberated upon for many days, and every thing that patience and reafon could fuggeft was urged to convince him of his error, but in vain. The Company's ftanding orders were read, wherein they fay, the refolution of the majority fhall be binding and conclufive, and the diffenters fhall conform thereto, but fhall not be blamed for the confequence. Mr. Vanfittart's Narrative was read, and the ufage of the Service from immemorial time in all the Prefidencies explained; and laftly, the Act of Parliament of feventy-four was produced. To thefe no good arguments were oppofed.—For befides the other paffages that I have quoted, is it poffible to conceive, that the Court of Directors fhould mean to inveft their inferior Prefidents with a power, which their Governor-General, the perfon of higheft ftation and authority in India, was not poffeffed of?

It is neceffary that I fhould explain fully what paft at the Board on the 22d of Auguft, as the Council was adjourned to that day, for the purpofe

of

of taking into their consideration the instructions to Colonel Stuart. The President, having before refused to put the question for approving them, was that day called upon again to put it, which he obstinately refused to do, or to suffer it to be put. The Majority then having approved the instructions, judged proper to direct the Secretary to forward them to Colonel Stuart, *by order of Council*, as the only moderate expedient left; but this also he would not allow to be done, asserting a right, as President of the Council, to put a negative on any resolution of the Majority which he did not approve: nevertheless a paper was drawn out, directed to the Secretary, and signed by six Members to the above effect; but the President having excepted to the words, *we think ourselves authorized to direct*, &c. it was agreed by the Majority to alter them, and insert in their room, *we direct the Secretary*, &c. This alteration was made not only with the concurrence of the President, but at his special desire. While this paper was writing fair, the President retired with some of his associates into his own apartment, where he stayed for some time, and then returning to the table, the Members took their seats according to form. The paper so altered being then read to the President, no one excepted thereto. Mr. Stratton being the senior Member signed it first, and gave it to me; I signed it also, and was handing it to Mr. Floyer to sign, when the President raising himself in his chair across the corner of the table, snatched it suddenly out of my hand, put it into his pocket, and instantly drew therefrom a written charge against Mr. Stratton and myself, for attempting by that order to subvert the Government. It was in vain that the other four Members declared their resolution to sign it also, and that they demanded it for that purpose; he refused it, and confined the charge to us two only, for had he admitted the others, it would have become of no effect, because we should then have been a majority. He called for the votes upon the question, refusing to admit Mr. Stratton's and mine, as being the party accused. There then would have remained four against the suspension, and on the other side three, excluding the President as the accuser, which was urged on the same principle that he excluded the accused; but he insisted it was different, and, by virtue of his casting voice, pronounced that we were suspended. The manner in which this business was hurried through, and the facility with which his associates joined him, is difficult for me to describe; but to all unprejudiced minds it must at once convey this idea, that it was a preconcerted scheme to gain a majority at all events. On his requiring the Members to vote, those of the majority moved for an adjournment, but he would not allow it; and after the votes were collected, they moved for setting, but he hastily broke up the Council and retired. Mr. Stratton and myself entered our protests at the table, but the President afterwards struck them out of the records with his own hand, as the Secretary informs me.

Either

Either the Majority is the Government, or it is not; if it is not, why are the afore-mentioned paſſages given to miſguide us? but if the Majority is the Government, it ſurely muſt mean a power to execute their own reſolves, or it muſt mean nothing; for of what uſe is a reſolution without a power to execute it? If exceptions ſhould be made to the mode of execution, in reſpect to the arreſt of the Governor's perſon, let it be conſidered what other mode was left for us to take: There was only this alternative, to reſign the intereſts of the Company, and the rights they had repoſed in us, to the will and power of one man; for by the ſame means, and on the ſame principles, that he attempted to ſuſpend us, he might by degrees have ſuſpended the few that adhered to him. Could we make this reſignation without betraying our truſt? Or could we allow it to be taken from us by an action compoſed of *trick and violence*, without juſtly incurring the reputation of want of firmneſs to do our duty, and making ourſelves reſponſible for the evils that might enſue? I think we could not.—And the tranquillity that now prevails ſhews, that as it was in our opinion the laſt, ſo perhaps it was the ſafeſt and beſt expedient we could have adopted; for what grounds had we to believe, that miſchiefs would not have happened from the conduct of the man who could not be reſtrained by the orders of the Company, the Conſtitution of the Service, and the Act of Parliament?

I am, SIR,

Very reſpectfully,

Fort St. George,
2d October, 1776.

Your moſt obedient and moſt humble ſervant,

HENRY BROOKE.

By his Majeſty's ſhip Swallow, via Suez.

Letter from Mr. Monro to the Majority of the Council, dated 23d September, 1776.—Received over-land 7th April, 1777.

To George Stratton, Eſquire, Sir Robert Fletcher, Henry Brooke, Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer, Francis Jourdan, and George Mackay, Eſquires.

GENTLEMEN,

You have at laſt thought proper to ſend (two hours before the time fixed by you for the cloſing of the Grenville's packet) your proceedings relative

relative to my ſuſpenſion, although applied for by me by letter on the 16th Inſtant. Was I not to inform you, that I have already acquainted our Honourable Maſters of your tardineſs in ſending them, I ſhould think myſelf deficient in point of candour.

The ſhortneſs of the time does not permit me now to make any remarks on your proceedings in regard to me, I reſerve this to a future opportunity, in caſe I ſhould think it expedient; in the mean time, I refer my cauſe to your Honourable Maſters and mine, who will judge between us, whoſe conduct, in regard to the ſtile of the addreſs claimed by you, for the Gentlemen whom you have found it expedient to enact and proclaim Preſident of your Council and Governor of Fort Saint George: and now, gentlemen, for this time I take my leave of you, not doubting but the juſtice of our Honourable Maſters will extend to you and to your

Humble Servant.

Fort St. George,
23d Sept. 1776.

(A true copy)

R. D. MONRO.

Tranſlation of a Letter from the Nabob to Governor Stratton, dated and received 18th September, 1776.—Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

The Commodore ſhewed me a paper this morning, containing a very extraordinary matter relative to my Son Ameer ul Omrah Behauder. For the vindication of the honour of my family, which has always been famed for mildneſs, and averſion to the ſhedding of blood, and in compliance with the earneſt entreaty of my Son, I requeſt that you will cauſe Mr. Randall to be confined, and that you will go into a thorough examination of this buſineſs; if you do not, he will run away, and my Son will lay under groundleſs ſuſpicions, which may not eaſily be removed. It is not neceſſary for me in this letter to inform you of the villainy of Mr. Randall; it will be ſufficiently evident to you when he appears before you. It is nevertheleſs proper for me to ſhew there is cauſe, from other criminal behaviour, for his being impriſoned, that thereby there may be an opportunity of proving his guilt, he (Mr. Randall) having forged letters from Lord North, and Mr. Robinſon, Secretary of Lord North, containing the worſt deſigns, in order to impoſe upon me; he likewiſe forged paragraphs of letters from

Sir Elijah Impey, and often declared to my Son, if he would give him money he would do any thing in England for him, whether good or bad, all which will be fully ſhewn. My Son ſaw from ſuch behaviour of Mr. Randall, that he was a bad man, and therefore determined not to ſhew him any favour, which Mr. Randall obſerving was very angry, and ſpoke to my Son in a very unbecoming manner. Abdul Ruſheed Cawn, my Dewan, upon this account told Mr. Randall four days ago, in the preſence of Major Alexander and Mr. Mellew, that he was diſmiſſed from my ſervice; upon which he went two days afterwards with the moſt malignant intentions, and made a falſe declaration before the Mayor's Court: all this will be made fully to appear upon examination. With reſpect to the life of Lord Pigot, I truſt in God it will not be my ill fortune that he ſhould die in this country; I have hopes that by his living to go to England to have his conduct examined into by the King and Parliament, and the Company, I ſhall be enabled to obtain publick juſtice for the wrongs he has done me.—What can I ſay more?

(A true copy)

R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Letter from George Stratton, Eſq. to the Nabob, dated Fort St. George, 22d September, 1777.

Received over-land by Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

To his Highneſs Navaub Walau Jau, Umeer ul Hind, Omdat ul Mulk, Anſuph ul Dowlah, Anwar ul dien Khan Behauder, Zuphur Jung, Sepoy Saulaur, Soubahdar of the Carnatick Payen Ghaut.

May it pleaſe your Highneſs,

I have had the honour to receive your Highneſſes letter, dated the 18th and 22d Inſtant. The affidavits you have forwarded, as well as the circumſtances, render the aſſertions of Mr. Randall not to be believed. I have the pleaſure to acquaint your Highneſs, that the Council all join with me in opinion, that your Son Ameer ul Omrah is incapable of ſuch a deſign. The conduct of Mr. Randall is undoubtedly baſe, but it is not in my power to give your Highneſs the ſatisfaction you require, by putting that man under confinement; all that our laws will authorize, in caſes of this kind, is a proſecution

fecution for defamation, and recovery of damages; and in cafe of the parties not finding bail, he will be confined.

I have the honour to be,

With profound refpect,

May it pleafe your Highnefs,

Your Highneffes moft fincere, moft obedient,

And moft humble fervant,

Fort St. George,
September 22d. 1776,

GEORGE STRATTON.

(A true Copy)

R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Tranflate of a Letter from the Nabob to Governor Stratton, dated and received 22d September, 1776.

Received over-land by Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

In order to fhew you and all the world the villainy of Mr. Randall, and his malignant intention of defaming my family, I fend you enclofed the affidavits of fome European gentlemen, together with the affidavits of others fworn to before the Mayor. I entreat to know what juftice and fatisfaction you can give me and my family upon this occafion? I beg you will write to me foon. I could fend you abundance of other atteftations to the wickednefs and villainy of Mr. Randall.—What can I fay more?

(A true Copy)

R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Depofition

Depoſition of Muttee Kiſtnah.

Received over-land by Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

Muttee Kiſtnah, Inhabitant of Sadraſs, now ſerving his Highneſs the Nabob of the Carnatick, depoſeth and ſaith.

That about ſix weeks ago, Maſter Randall came to him in the office, and having taken him aſide, ſaid, that he had received a letter from Lord North, and requeſted him to communicate the ſame to the Nabob Ameer ul Omrah Behadar. This deponent delivered Mr. Randall's meſſage to his maſter; his Excellency ordered that Mr. Randall ſhould be brought into his preſence; Mr. Randall being admitted, the Nabob gave orders to this deponent to ſtand at a diſtance, ſaw Mr. Randall reading a letter to the Nabob, he was not near enough to hear the contents, but he could perceive that the Nabob ſmiled; after which Mr. Randall returned from the Nabob, ſeemingly much pleaſed.

A few days after, Mr. Randall came again to acquaint the Nabob, that he had received a letter from Mr. Robinſon; he was again admitted to the Nabob's preſence, and having, in the ſight of this deponent, as before, read a letter, he returned well ſatisfied.

Some days after this, Mr. Randall informed this deponent, that he had in his poſſeſſion a letter from Sir Elijah Impey, directed to the Nabob Ameer ul Omrah, and ſtriking his hand upon the outſide of his pocket, as an indication of the letter being there.

He declared, that if the Nabob would give him a ſum of money, he would deliver the letter, but upon no other terms; this deponent not crediting Mr Randall's aſſertion, did not at that time deliver the letter to his Excellency.

About a week ago, Mr. Randall came in the evening, and declared to this deponent, that if the Nabob Ameer ul Omrah Behaudar did not immediately give him money, he would ruin his reputation and character both in England and in the Carnatick.

This

This deponent acquainted the Nabob with what Mr. Randall had threatened; to which the Nabob replied, I am not to be intimidated, he may act as he pleases.

MUTTEE KISTNAH.

Sworn to before me, this 20th September, 1776,

JOHN TURING,

Mayor of Madrass.

(A true copy)

R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Deposition of Alavel Cawn.

Received over-land by Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

Alavel Cawn, Seapoy in the service of his Highness the Nabob of the Carnatick, deposeth and saith, that on Monday the 16th of September, about eleven o'clock in the forenoon, he being then on duty, as centry, at the garden gate, saw Dervash Mahomed, commandant, conversing with Mr. Randall, late in his Highness's service, in the garden of the Nabob, Ameer ul Omrah Bahauder.

Sworn to, this 20th September, 1776, The mark † of Alavel Cawn.

before me,

JOHN TURING,

Mayor of Madrass.

(A true copy)

R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Depoſition of Dervaſh Mahomed.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

Dervaſh Mahomed, commandant, maketh oath and ſaith, that on Monday the 16th of September, about eleven o'clock in the forenoon, he, the ſaid Dervaſh Mahomed, was going towards the office to ſpeak with Muttee Kiſtnah, Dubaſh to his Excellency Ameer ul Omrah Bahauder; near the office he met Mr. Randall, who taking him familiarly by the hand, enquired after his health, and leading this deponent to another part of the garden, addreſſed him in the following terms; I have ſomething to ſay to you, which you muſt ſwear to keep ſecret; very much ſurpriſed at ſuch a requeſt, this deponent replied, how can I make ſuch a promiſe, before I know on what ſubject you are going to ſpeak? Mr. Randall more than once repeated his former requeſt, but finding this deponent inflexible, he at length ſaid, if you will come with me into the fort, and confirm by oath whatever I ſhall ſay, you ſhall be handſomely rewarded; this deponent returned for anſwer, that he would not accept of any thing, nor would he ſwear to any thing that he was not perfectly acquainted with; to which Mr. Randall, ſeemingly in great confuſion replied, if you will not go with me to the fort, you muſt at leaſt keep this converſation an inviolable ſecret. This deponent imagining it to be ſome affair in which Mr. Randall only was concerned, never mentioned a word of the matter, until he heard from publick report, that the ſaid Mr. Randall had accuſed his Excellency Ameer ul Omrah Bahauder of an intention to aſſaſſinate Lord Pigot; he then, as in duty bound, repeated to his Excellency the above related converſation, which paſſed on the 16th inſtant between him and Mr. Randall. This converſation paſſed in the Engliſh language, with which this deponent is but imperfectly acquainted as yet; he can ſafely declare, that words to this effect paſſed between him and Mr. Randall, on the day time, and place aforeſaid; and this deponent is ready to ſatisfy by oath all and every part of this depoſition, according to the forms preſcribed by his religion, and the cuſtoms of his country.

Sworn to this 20th September, 1776,

The Mark ∽ of Dervaſh Mahomed.

before me,

JOHN TURING,

Mayor of Madraſs.

R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Depofition of Shaick Imam.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

Shaick Imam, Jemedar in the fervice of his Highnefs the Nabob of Carnatick, depofeth and faith, that on Monday the 16th of September, about eleven o'clock in the forenoon, he faw Dervafh Mahomed, Commandant, converfing with Mr. Randall, late in his Highnefs's fervice, in the garden of the Nabob Ameer ul Omrah Behauder.

Sworn to, this 20th September, 1776,

before me,

The Mark ✝ of Shaick Imam.

JOHN TURING,

Mayor of Madrafs.

(A true copy)

R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Depofition of Selyman Cawn,

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

Selyman Cawn, Seapoy in the fervice of his Highnefs the Nabob of the Carnatic, depofeth and faith, that on Monday the 16th of September, about eleven o'clock in the forenoon, he being then on duty, as centry, at the garden gate, faw Dervafh Mahomed, Commandant, converfing with Mr. Randall, late in his Highnefs's fervice, in the garden of the Nabob Ameer ul Omrah Bahauder.

Sworn to, this 20th September, 1776,

before me,

The mark ✝ of Selyman Cawn.

JOHN TURING,

Mayor of Madrafs.

(A true copy)

R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Depofition

Depoſition of Henry Norris,

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

I Henry Norris, Factor, in the Honourable Eaſt-India Company's ſervice, do make oath and ſwear, that on or about the hour of nine or ten in the forenoon of Saturday the 14th Day of September, as I was paſſing through the Nabob's garden, I heard Mr. Randall call out to Ameer ul Omrah Behauder, on which the ſaid Ameer ul Omrah ſtopped his carriage; Mr. Randall then aſked the ſaid Ameer ul Omrah, in a ſtrong tone of voice, if his buſineſs was ſettled, or if he was to be put off any longer, or words to that effect; on which the ſaid Ameer ul Omrah replied, go Sir, I will have nothing to do with you buſineſs, apply to Abdul Raſheed Cawn, the Nabob's Dewan, or words to that purport; on this Mr. Randall retorted in a paſſionate tone of voice, and uſing violent geſtures, if my buſineſs is not ſettled to-night, I muſt ſettle it myſelf; from which I concluded, in my own mind, that he was reſolved on ſome extraordinary act, and that he meant to intimidate the ſaid Nabob Ameer ul Omrah, and I could not help obſerving to the ſaid Ameer ul Omrah, that he the ſaid Mr. Randall appeared reduced to deſpair.

HENRY NORRIS.

Sworn to, this 21ſt September, 1776,

before me,

JOHN TURING,

Mayor of Madraſs.

(A true copy)

R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Depoſition

talent at mischievous fiction, than the baseness of his principles. The purport of Sir Robert's declaration is, that some time after they had been on board of the Salisbury, Mr. Randall addressed him a letter, in which he set forth, that notwithstanding appearances, he was sent out and employed by high authority at home, to execute secret services at the different Presidencies; and he added, that he could be of great service to Sir Robert, if he would then engage him in his interest. Sir Robert observes further, that he mentioned the receipt of this letter to a Mr. Bird, Surgeon of the Salisbury, who remembers that Sir Robert expressed his astonishment at the contents of it, and wished to know his opinion of the man. Mr. Bird's letter to Sir Robert on this subject is a number in the Packet.

18. But what appears to us to set the falsity and villainy of Mr. Randall's information against Ameer ul Omrah in the clearest point of view is the affidavit itself, by which he would make it appear, that he was possessed of the secret of a design against Lord Pigot's life, and yet concealed the intention for more than eight months; nor did he ever communicate the design till he was dismissed the service of the Nabob, and 'till his Lordship was out of reach of all danger. He swears expressly, that Ameer ul Omrah told him, "That he had or would engage one Comrah, a Dubash, "to kill the said Lord Pigot, by causing poison to be put in his food;" and yet, notwithstanding this pretended knowledge of a felonious design to poison Lord Pigot, he concealed that knowledge from his Lordship; so that by the same oath with which he would establish the belief of the felonious design to take away the life of his Lordship, he proves himself guilty of misprision of a felonious intention, by not discovering it immediately so as to endeavour to prevent it. In another part of his affidavit he says, that from a conversation which passed between him and Comrah, he is convinced that Comrah was privy to the design of poisoning his Lordship; and yet Mr. Randall made then no discovery.

19. We would not dwell so long on this subject, did we not feel so sensibly in our own breasts the perfect atrociousness of an attempt to fix at this time, without evidence, so unmerited, and so heinous a charge, upon any of the Nabob's family, *a family distinguished amongst the princes of India for an abhorrence of such wickedness.* If it were even admitted, contrary to truth, and the experience on which that truth is founded, that such an inhuman intention could ever possess the mind of the Nabob's son; is there

 a person

a person the least versed in the customs and manners of this country, who can imagine, that the execution of such a work would be trusted to an European? or that the design would be communicated and the execution delayed for nine months? or that an European, with whom such a secret was lodged, would be dismissed with disgrace, so as to provoke him to discovery? But these are circumstances which shock belief, and it is impossible to explode, with too much severity, an accusation, so baneful to the peace and honour of an individual, and that might, in its consequences, prove so hurtful to the public repose.

20. We have only further to observe to your Honours, that we will endeavour to give the Nabob every satisfaction in our power; and at the same time to request you will be pleased to give every attention to the papers in the packet on this subject, and particularly to the deposition of Moodie Kistnah, who swears that Mr. Randall threatened Ameer ul Omrah, if he did not give him a sum of money, to ruin his reputation and character, as well in Europe as in the Carnatic.

21. Colonel Capper having requested our permission to go to England for a short time to settle his private family concerns, we have complied with his request. From the good opinion we entertain of this gentleman, we have thought him a very proper person to be charged with our dispatches to your Honours by his Majesty's ship the Swallow to Suez, from whence he will proceed over land; having signified this to Colonel Capper, he very readily offered his services on this occasion; we beg leave strongly to recommend him to you, and to request you will permit him to return to the important station he holds in your service.

22. Mr. James Dighton, a gentleman of good character and abilities, having heard of our intention to send a packet to your Honours over-land, voluntarily offered himself to accompany Colonel Capper, and we have accordingly accepted of his services, to guard against any accident that may happen to our packet, in case of the death or indisposition of Colonel Capper.

23. We hope your Honours will allow us to recommend this gentleman to you, being convinced, from the knowledge he has obtained of the Persian

ſian and other Eaſtern languages, that he may be a very uſeful ſervant to you at this Preſidency.

We are,

HONOURABLE,

Fort St. George,
24th September, 1776.

Your faithful humble ſervants,

GEO. STRATTON,
HENRY BROOKE,
ROB. FLETCHER,
CHARLES FLOYER,
ARCHDALE PALMER,
GEO. MACKAY.

Extract of Letter from Lord Pigot to the Court of Directors, dated St. Thomas's-Mount, 26th September, 1776,

Received over-land by Mr. Dalrymple, the 20th April, 1777.

7. There comes a number in the packet the affidavit of Mr. Randall, an officer in the Nabob's ſervice; he was a ſtranger to me till the day he gave that affidavit, but having ſacrificed his views in this country, he goes a paſſenger on the Grenville, and I beg leave to recommend him to your notice. Great pains have been taken to invalidate this gentleman's affidavit; amongſt the reſt, much ſtreſs has been laid on a loan of ſix hundred pagodas, made him by Mr. Monckton a few days after the affidavit was made, who on this occaſion has thought it neceſſary to make a depoſition of all the circumſtances relating to it, which comes alſo a number in the packet.

8 Major Horne, by order of the gentlemen in the fort, having informed me, that any of the Company's ſervants whom I thought proper might go to England with my diſpatches for your Honours, I made choice of Captain Wood,

Wood, the Town Major, who will deliver you this letter. This gentleman has ever conducted himself much to my satisfaction; but his spirited and proper conduct on the parade the night Colonel Stuart made me a prisoner, well entitles him to your particular favour. I have engaged to pay Captain Abercromby eight hundred pounds for the passengers I have put on board his ship, and I hope your Honours will please to discharge the same.

9. Sir Edward Hughes purposing to send the Swallow sloop of war to Suez about the 2d or 3d. of the next month it appearing to me and the other gentlemen of the Council so essential, that you should not only have the earliest intelligence, but the fullest information of the situation of your affairs, that we would not avoid desiring Mr. Dalrymple to proceed that way to England, which he will do accordingly.

I am,

HONOURABLE,

St. Thomas's Mount,
26th September, 1776.

Your faithful humble servant,

PIGOT.

Copy of Mr. Randall's Affidavit, as communicated by the Majority, is entered on Consultation the 19th September, 1776, folio 593; but in the Copy transmitted by Lord Pigot, after the words, [" That the deponent " had always intentions of making this deposition," is the following paragraph.]

The deponent further maketh oath, and says, that the said Ameer ul Omrah has often engaged the said deponent to go to England by the ships of this season, and within these twelve days past ordered the deponent to take a passage on the ship Grenville, for the purpose of exposing to the English Nation the weakness of his elder brother, commonly called Omdat ul Omrah; saying to the deponent, he, the Ameer ul Omrah, was fit only to

to ſucceed his father, the Nabob Mahomed Ali Cawn, in the government of the Carnatick; and that the ſaid Ameer ul Omrah has often declared his brother Omdat ul Omrah was a rogue, that the Tinnevelly, or ſome other country, was ſufficient for him to command; and at the ſame time the ſaid Ameer ul Omrah declared to the deponent, that his elder brother was a beaſt, and (to uſe his own words) " my brother lay with man and dog."

Madraſs, (Signed)
15th September, 1776.

WILLIAM RANDALL.

Sworn before me,

(Signed)

JOHN TURING, Mayor.

Encloſure in Mr. DALRYMPLE's Packet.

Received over-land, 20th April, 1777.

The Depoſition of EDWARD MONCKTON.

I Edward Monckton make oath and ſay, that upon my arrival at the houſe my family lives in at the Mount, on Sunday the 15th September, 1776, at a little after one o'clock (it being my practice ever ſince the confinement of Lord Pigot to go to Choultry Plain in the morning, and return at noon), I found the company aſſembled in the hall, waiting for dinner, and among the reſt I obſerved Capt. Randall. I had dined in the company of that Gentleman once at Mr. Oakeley's upon his firſt arrival in India, about fifteen or ſixteen months ago; but as I did not remember to have been in his company either before or ſince that time, I imagined that he had been to ſee Lord Pigot, and invited by him to dine with us; and I entered into a general converſation with him and the reſt of the company, 'till he had an opportunity of taking me aſide, when he in-

formed me, that he had juſt been with Lord Pigot, and informed him of his having ſomething of a very black nature to communicate; that his Lordſhip had referred him to me. He then pulled out of his pocket a paper, and gave it to me, and declared, that he was ready to go immediately to Mr. Stratton, and make oath to the truth of it; and then, in the moſt publick manner, delivered a copy of it to Sir Edward Hughes. I told him, that I much doubted of the legality of an oath taken before him, as I did not imagine that he was properly authorized to adminiſter an oath; that the Mayor appeared to me to be the only perſon now that could with propriety take depoſitions; he thereupon told me, that he would go before him that afternoon.: we were then called to dinner, and after dinner I deſired him to let Mr. Ruſſell ſee the paper, which he readily did. Mr. Ruſſell, after reading it, took me aſide, and told me that he wiſhed that Mr. Randall had been more definite with reſpect to time. I ſet forth to him the great impropriety in our interfering in the leaſt; to which he acquieſced, and Mr. Randall took leave of us. The next morning, I believe about ten o'clock, Mr. Randall came to me at my houſe in Choultry Plain, and put into my hand the ſame paper properly atteſted, and told me that he had been been before the Mayor the evening before, and had ſworn to the truth of it: he then ſet forth to me, that he had juſt reſigned the Nabob's ſervice, and, as he had of his own free-will ſtood forth, he hoped his Lordſhip would befriend him, if, upon enquiry, he ſhould find him deſerving; and that Lord Pigot would make uſe of his intereſt with Capt. Abercromby, of the ſhip Grenville, to procure him a paſſage to England. The ſame afternoon he went out to ſee Lord Pigot, and his Lordſhip not only promiſed to procure him a paſſage, but alſo to give him a letter to the Chairman of the Directors.

The 19th I received the following Letter from him.

DEAR SIR,

I beg you will preſent the encloſed to Lord Pigot; it is to requeſt, that Lord Pigot will recommend me generally to the protection of the Directors in his Letter, and that he will be pleaſed to give me another Letter,

Letter, addressed to them, to prove my identity. It is very painful to me to be under the necessity of asking of you *the loan of six hundred pagodas*; I will most certainly repay you that sum on my return, and to-morrow I intend to pay my compliments to his Lordship.

I am, DEAR SIR,

Your obedient humble servant,

St. Thomé, 19th.

W. RANDALL.

Pray trouble yourself to seal the enclosed; I have no materials within reach.

My answer on a scrap of paper was as follows.

DEAR SIR,

I will do the needful for you, and as soon I can scrape together the money you want, you shall have it.

I am your most obedient,

EDWD. MONCKTON.

Sunday following, having got together the money, I wrote him on another scrap of paper the following note.

DEAR SIR,

You may have the money when you will please to send for it. Lord Pigot has spoke to Capt. Abercromby about your passage. I am

Your most obedient servant,

EDWD. MONCKTON.

And

And the next morning he sent his Dubash with his compliments, and the following receipt, and received from my people 600 pagodas.

" I promise to pay to the Honourable Edward Monckton, or order, " the sum of six hundred pagodas, value received.

"Wm. RANDALL."

"Madrass, September 23d, 1776."

I further do declare, that I never had any intercourse, either directly or indirectly, with Mr. Randall; neither do I believe any of Lord Pigot's friends had before Sunday the 15th September, 1776, when he shewed us the paper that he afterwards deposed to; neither has he ever had any sum of money to my knowledge either promised or given him.

(Signed) Ed. MONCKTON.

Sworn to in Court, this
26th Day of September 1776.

(Signed) JAMES TAYLOR,

Register.

Enclosure in Mr. DALRYMPLE's Packet.

Received over-land, 20th April, 1777.

The Information of CLAUD RUSSELL, Esq;

This informant saith, that on Sunday the 25th, being at the Mount, Major Horne, Commanding Officer there, gave him to peruse an order he (the Major) had received that morning, signed George Stratton, Henry Brooke, Robert Fletcher, Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer, Francis Jourdan, and George Mackay; and that the last paragraph of the said order was in these words: " *As the last resource, in case of an attempt to rescue* " *Lord Pigot, his life must answer it; and this you will signify to him.*"

This

This informant further faith, that the fame order was fome days afterwards produced to Sir Edward Hughes, the Commander in Chief of his Majefty's Ships in India, in prefence of Lord Pigot, the Honourable Edward Monckton, Alexander Dalrymple, and this informant.

Madrafs,
31ft Auguft, 1776.

Sworn to before me,

(Signed), JOHN TURING,

MAYOR.

Enclofure in Mr. DALRYMPLE's Packet.

Received over-land, 20th April, 1777.

On Saturday the 24th inftant, between eight and nine o'clock at night, intelligence having been brought to the Governor's Garden-houfe, where I then was, that Lord Pigot had been carried off a prifoner to the Mount, I immediately haftened to the fort, accompanied by J. M. Stone, Efq. where I found the town in confufion, and was told, that Mr. Stratton and Sir Robert Fletcher, with others, had taken poffeffion of the Council-Room. On drawing near the Parade, it being moon-light, I obferved it was crowded with officers and others, as well Europeans as Blacks, and a number of carriages at the Fort Square Gate. Meeting foon afterwards with the Fort Major, Capt. Wood, he informed me that thofe Gentlemen had declared themfelves the Adminiftration, and that he had been fent to the Main Guard for endeavouring to keep the troops to their duty. I then directed Lieutenant Pendergaft, the Fort Adjutant, who had juft joined us, to go to the Officer of the Main Guard (Capt. Adair) and tell him that it was my orders, in the abfence of Lord Pigot, to have his men ftand immediately to their arms; but obferving that he (Capt. Adair) hefitated, I went myfelf to him, and repeated my orders in perfon; telling him, that he fhould reflect on the confequences of a refufal, as in the abfence

of Lord Pigot, whose guard he commanded, I must be considered his commanding officer. He (Captain Adair) still hesitated, and muttering something about the Commander in Chief, I asked him, if he had received any contradictory orders from the Commander in Chief, and by whom they were delivered; Captain Adair replied, in a confused manner, that Colonel Stuart had *delivered him orders.* During this a crowd of Officers had assembled around us, and on my insisting with Captain Adair that my orders should be complied with, Lieutenant-Colonel Edington, Adjutant-General, and Captain Barclay, came up to me, and, with great professions of respect for my person, recommended to me as most prudent to go to my house. I told them my duty called me where I was, or words to that effect; and in the mean while, whether by Captain Adair's orders or not I do not know, great part of the guard stood to their arms; and as I was advancing to get in front of them, Colonel Stuart came up to me seemingly much agitated, saying, you must go with me *to* Council, or *before* Council: my answer was, that I was not under his orders, but that he at that time was under mine, and that I should certainly not go where he directed, or words to that effect. Colonel Stuart upon this seized me by the breast of my coat, calling out for *Orderlies*; at the same time Lieutenant-Colonel Edington and Captain Barclay each seized me by an arm, and these Gentlemen were forcibly dragging me along, when I called to the Captain of the Main Guard for assistance, but in vain, though I did observe several of the Grenadiers advance from the ranks towards us, which seemed to alarm Colonel Stuart so much, that he quitted his hold of me, and run back to push them into the ranks with oaths and threats. After effecting this, he (Colonel Stuart) returned to assist Colonel Edington and Captain Barclay, by laying hold of my wrist, and calling for an orderly Serjeant to push me behind. Continuing to make all the resistance in my power, I was by main force dragged by Colonel Stuart, Lieutenant-Colonel Edington, and Captain Barclay, with the assistance of the orderly Serjeant, to the Council Room, where were sitting George Stratton, Esquire, Sir Robert Fletcher, Francis Jourdan, George Mackay, Charles Floyer, Henry Brooke, and Archdale Palmer, Esquires, and Mr. Henry Norris attending. Colonel Stuart led me in by the arm, and shutting the door, he addressed himself to the above Gentlemen, saying, that I had so strong an arm, that he was out of breath, and must beg time to recover it before he could explain the cause of my being before them. Upon this I required to know whether I was a prisoner or not; Sir Robert Fletcher (I think it was) answered, that I was not a prisoner; and I was therefore going to retire, but

but upon opening the door, Colonel Stuart run up to me, and ſlapped it to. Upon my repreſenting the indecency of this behaviour to Mr. Stratton, who ſeemed to be the Preſident, the Colonel pleaded in excuſe, that he wiſhed me to be preſent while he related to the Council (for ſuch he called them) what had paſſed. He (Colonel Stuart) then dictated, while Mr. Jourdan minuted a declamation about my exciting mutiny, and related the circumſtances of his ſeizing me with tolerable accuracy, that he makes no mention of the violent and powerful aſſiſtance given him by Lieutenant-Colonel Edington, Captain Barclay, and the Orderly. When the Colonel had finiſhed, Mr. Stratton aſked what I had to ſay in anſwer; to which I replied, that I denied their authority, and ſhould ſay nothing, or words to that effect. Mr. Mackay and Mr. Jourdan then went round to the oppoſite ſide of the table, and after ſome converſation with Sir Robert Fletcher and Mr. Floyer, Sir Robert propoſed, before I ſhould retire, that a Letter, which would ſhortly be ſent me, might be read to me; but this I objected to, declaring that I would not liſten to any thing at that Board, whoſe authority I denied. Mr. Stratton, however, riſing up, began to read a paper, ſuppoſed to be the Letter in queſtion, but ſtopped, upon my calling to him by name, that I would not hear him. Sir Robert then moved, that the contents ſhould be told me, which Mr. Stratton then declared to be, that they had ſuſpended me the Company's Service; and orders were given, in my hearing, to Colonel Stuart, to declare the ſame immediately on the Parade: I thereupon retired, and immediately returned to the Governor's Gardens.

CLAUD RUSSELL.

Madraſs, 31ſt Auguſt, 1776.

Sworn to before me,

(Signed) JOHN TURING,

MAYOR.

Letter

Letter from Lord Pigot to the Governor-General and Council at Bengal, dated at St. Thomas's Mount, 29th August, 1776.

Received over-land by Mr. Dalrymple, 20th April, 1777.

To the Honourable Warren Hastings, Esquire, Governor-General, &c. Council, of Bengal.

Honourable SIR and SIRS,

Major Horne having this afternoon received permission for me to write to you in his presence, I think it proper to acquaint your Honour, &c. that having found it expedient, with the advice of my Council, to order Sir Robert Fletcher under arrest, for being concerned in circulating in the garrison letters of a seditious nature. Colonel James Stuart, the next officer in rank, was appointed to the chief command of the troops. This Officer, who dined with me in the Fort at his own desire, was invited by me to supper at the Company's Garden House; which invitation he accepted, and at the same time acquainting me that he had no conveyance, requested I would take him with me in my chaise. I that afternoon desired the Gentlemen of Council to meet me in the Fort, and I directed the Secretary to write to Colonel Stuart also to attend, where I shewed him the Commission of Government; and he then declared, upon his honour, that he would that night issue to the out-garrisons the general orders of Sir Robert Fletcher's being under arrest, if the Tappies were detained, and they were detained accordingly.

I then took Colonel Stuart into my chaise, and when I was upon the island, something more than half a mile from the Fort, my horses were stopped by Colonel Edington, the Adjutant-General, with a party of Seapoys; at this instant of time Captain Lysaught presented himself at that side of my chaise on which I was with a pistol in his hand, and Colonel Stuart seizing me by the arm, said, "Go out, Sir," and delivered me to the charge of Captain Lysaught, who conducted me to a post-chaise, and brought me prisoner to the Mount, where I was delivered into the custody of Major Horne, who at the same time received from Captain Lysaught the accompanying orders, which are the only orders Major Horne acquaints me he has liberty to give me a copy of.

I remained in this confinement, from the Saturday night, the 24th Auguſt, to Tueſday the 27th, when, between eleven and twelve at night, Colonel Edington arrived with freſh orders for my removal; I will leave other men to ſay how patiently I bore my confinement, and with what propriety I conducted myſelf upon Colonel Edington's refuſing to ſhew his orders, or to make known to me whither he was to conduct me. I thought it neceſſary to declare, that I would not truſt myſelf with a traitor, who had made me priſoner, and that I would reſiſt whilſt life remained in me. Major Horne's prudence, and Colonel Edington's reflection, ſtopt this violence proceeding further; and receiving a viſit from Sir Edward Hughes in the morning, I thought it prudent to demand the protection of the King's flag, and Sir Edward Hughes has in conſequence demanded a ſafe conduct for me to his ſhip.

I have recommended to all the civil ſervants of the Company whom I have ſeen, to continue in the execution of their duty to the Company in their ſeveral ſtations.

I am,

Honourable SIR and SIRS,

St. Thomas's Mount,
29th Auguſt, 1776.

Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

(Signed)

PIGOT.

General Letter from the Majority of the Council at Fort St. George, dated 26th September, 1776,

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

To the Honourable the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honourable United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East-Indies.

HONOURABLE SIRS,

Par. 1. We this day received a letter from the Nabob, enclosing an affidavit of Samuel Mills, late a Lieutenant in his Highness's service, which he has requested may be communicated to you.

Par. 2. In our letter of the 24th instant, we gave you our sentiments at large on the subject of the deposition of William Randall; we shall therefore confine ourselves at present to an assurance to your Honours, that we are firmly persuaded, not only from the affidavit itself, and our knowledge of the Nabob and his family, but likewise from the nature of the circumstances that have since been brought to view, that Mr. Randall has been actuated to this conduct by such principles as must appear atrocious to the eyes of all mankind. Copies of the Nabob's letter to us of our reply, and of Samuel Mills's deposition, now wait on your Honours enclosed.

Par. 3. We have given orders to Captain Abercromby, Commander of your Ship the Grenville, not to receive Mr. Randall as passenger for England,

land, in order that the Nabob may be enabled to take ſuch further meaſures as the law directs.

We are,

HONOURABLE,

Your faithful humble ſervants,

Fort St. George,
26th September, 1776.

GEO. STRATTON,
HENRY BROOKE,
ROB. FLETCHER,
CHARLES FLOYER,
ARCHDALE PALMER,
GEO. MACKAY.

Tranſlate of a Letter from the Nabob to Governor Stratton, dated and received the 26th of September, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

I have received your letter of the 22d September, in anſwer to two from me; although I am obliged to you for them, yet they are not ſufficiently ſatisfactory, conſidering the attention that is due to my honour and the honour of my family. Yourſelf, and the Gentlemen of Council, are the Managers here on the part of the Company; and I, who am the friend of the Company and Nation, expect from you juſtice, and ſupport of my honour and rights. Nothing but the puniſhment of Mr. Randall for his perjury, and the groſs ſlander he has thrown on me and my family, will be a ſufficient ſatisfaction to me. What can be a ſtronger proof of the truth of what I wrote to you regarding the villainy of Mr. Randall, than the affidavits of Engliſh gentlemen which I ſent to you? I intreat you to write theſe circumſtances to the Court of Directors, and if the packet ſhould be cloſed, that you will write them a ſeparate letter. Although Mr. Randall's falſhood is evident on proof to all the Engliſh gentlemen at this place, yet there remains for me to have ſatisfaction in the manner I have written above. What can I ſay more?

(A true Copy)

R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Letter

Letter to the Nabob, dated Fort St. George, 26th September, 1776,

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

To the N A B O B.

I have had the honour to receive your Highneſs's letter of this day's date, encloſing me an affidavit of Samuel Mills, late Lieutenant in your Highneſs's ſervice, ſworn to before Mr. John Turing, Mayor of Madraſs.

The ſentiments we have already expreſſed to the Company on the very extraordinary depoſition of William Randall, and the diſbelief which, from a perfect knowledge of your Highneſs and family, we naturally gave to that depoſition, would, I am convinced, be a poſitive certainty to your Highneſs, that the Council and I conceived that act to have proceeded from the baſeſt motives. But as your Highneſs has been pleaſed to communicate to me the declaration of Samuel Mills, I ſhall, agreeably to your deſire, tranſmit a copy of it to the Company, who, I need not aſſure your Highneſs, are ever anxious and ever will exert themſelves in the ſupport of the honour and dignity of your Highneſs, and that of your family.

I have given orders to Captain Abercromby, Commander of the Company's ſhip Grenville, not to receive Mr. Randall as paſſenger for England, in order that your Highneſs may take ſuch further meaſures as you may deem expedient on this occaſion.

(A true Copy)

Fort St. George,
26th September, 1776.

R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Depoſition

Depofition of SAMUEL MILLS.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

I Samuel Mills, late Lieutenant in the fervice of his Highnefs the Nabob of the Carnatic, depofe, that Mr. William Randall, late Captain in the faid fervice, lived with me three months and upwards. That he, the faid William Randall, came home one night, about the 15th of September, inftant, feemingly very much vexed and difturbed in his mind, which he the faid Randall faid was occafioned by the Nabob not giving him money; he walked feveral times backwards and forwards in the room, and faid, no honeft man could live in this country; that it was to make money that every one came to this country, and that he would have his fhare of it fomehow or other; he likewife faid, that he had a very good head for forming, and that he would do fomething that would make his fortune, and that if it was in his power he would hang the Nabob, meaning, as this deponent believes, Nabob Ameer ul Omrah Behauder. This deponent faith, that the next morning at breakfaft the faid Randall wrote a paper, which he carried out of the houfe, and faid he was taking it to Lord Pigot; he brought it back in the evening, and faid he would carry it to John Turing. I faw it the next morning with the words at the bottom (as near as I can recollect) Sworn before me, John Turing.—— I afked the faid Randall what the paper meaned, and he anfwered, fomething that would make his fortune; he then fhewed me the contents, which much furprized me. I went that morning to the Nabob's, Ameer ul Omrah Bahauder, to acquaint him with what I had feen and heard, but could not be admitted to his prefence 'till the 23d inftant. This Deponent faith, that between the 17th and 23d inftant, the faid Randall received three chits or notes from Mr. Monckton; that this Deponent was at home when they were brought for the faid Randall; and as there was not any one of them fealed,

he took the liberty of reading them. The firſt was, as near as this Deponent recollects,—You ſhall have the needful, and as ſoon as I can ſcrape the money together, you ſhall have it:—the ſecond,—The money is ready whenever you chuſe to ſend for it, and we ſhall be glad to ſee you at the Mount;—the third,—We ſhall be glad to ſee you in the morning at the Mount; Lord Pigot has ſpoken to Captain Abercromby about your paſſage. This Deponent ſaith, that Mr. Randall told him that he ſhould come out again to India in eleven months with his fortune made, and that he would be in the civil line. This Deponent ſaith, that his wife informed him that ſaid Randall's Dubaſh brought ſome money to him.

SAMUEL MILLS.

Sworn to, this 25th September, 1776,
before me,

JOHN TURING,
Mayor of Madraſs.

(A true Copy)

R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

DISSENT

DISSENT

Of one of the Aldermen of the Mayor's Court at Madrafs (Mr. George Smith) to the reconfidered Refolution of the Court, delivered on Monday the 2d of September, 1776, by a majority of 7 voices to 2, that the Court had not the authority of granting a Writ of Habeas Corpus, after it had been determined two days before, by 6 voices to 3, that fuch authority was vefted in the Court; and in confequence thereof it was the public opinion, that the Court (which had met by adjournment on the 2d) would iffue the Writ.

N.B. The Writ had been applied for on the Petition of the Governor, Lord Pigot, who had been feized by a military force, and detained a prifoner under the fame force at St. Thomas's Mount.

I diffent, becaufe the Habeas Corpus Act does exprefsly direct to bring, or to be brought, the body of the party fo illegally committed, or reftrained, unto or before Judges of the *Court, from which the faid Writ fhall iffue*, or fuch other *perfons* before whom the faid Writ is made *returnable*, according to the command thereof.

Becaufe I underftand that the Supreme Court at Calcutta have always exercifed the power of granting this Writ (for the relief of oppreffed fubjects in thofe provinces, and in furtherance of juftice) though, on the perufal of their charter, I do not find that the authority for fo doing is thereby exprefsly granted, but am fenfible that the fame is fufficiently implied.

Becaufe I do not find in his Majefty's charter, by which this Court is eftablifhed, or in the Book of Inftructions which accompanied the fame, any prohibition to this Court's granting a Writ of Habeas Corpus.

Becaufe this Court, as I conceive, was inftituted to grant relief to all fuitors, efpecially Britifh fubjects in all civil caufes, whether for the recovery of debts, or reparation of damages to parties injured in their property, liberty, or reputations.

Becaufe,

Becauſe the late Act of Parliament, for the better regulation of the affairs of the Eaſt-India Company, does in ſeveral clauſes give very direct and important powers to this Court for the relief of the Company, and for bringing all ſuch perſons as are therein ſpecified, to an account and to judgment, who ſhall or may be charged with ſuch offences as are by the Act prohibited.

Becauſe it appears to me but too evident, that the authority and juſtice of this Court may be eaſily fruſtrated and deluded, and the good intentions of the legiſlative authority, of the Crown, and of the Company, may eaſily be evaded, and the Act of Parliament, as well as the Charter itſelf, in many caſes, become a dead letter, Vox et præterea nihil, if the Court has not the authority of granting Writs of Habeas Corpus, for the relief of ſuch parties and witneſſes as may be kept under reſtraint and confinement, by means which no authority leſs than his Majeſty's Court of Record can remove.

Becauſe, therefore, the authority of granting the Writ in queſtion appears to me as incident to the conſtitution of this Court, for the due and effectual execution of the important ends for which it was appointed, the uninterrupted operation of which alone it is that will render it a bleſſing to theſe Settlements, as it ought to be.

Becauſe, in many branches, the proceſs which iſſues out of this Court, and has iſſued time out of mind (as well as out of the Mayor's Court at Calcutta, and at Bombay) is not authorized by any expreſs words in the Charter, but has been adopted as a neceſſary and legal relief to the Suitors, particularly in granting warrants for the ſeizure of perſons and effects upon the ſea, and in any river which is a road, ſtead, or harbour, or any part thereof (and which in England belongs to the Court of Admiralty alone) has never been called in queſtion, or if it has, the conduct of theſe Courts has been confirmed, though the authority in this inſtance is no more expreſſed in the Charter than it is in the caſe of a Habeas Corpus.

Becauſe all the books of authority which I have had an opportunity of conſulting, as far as the ſhortneſs of the time would permit me, Judge Blackſtone, Serjeant Hawkins, and ſome others, ſpeak of this Writ as a conſtitutional Writ, the great conſtitutional remedy to poor and rich; a Writ of Right, which may not be denied, and to which the ſubject is entitled, ex debito juſtitiæ, grantable of common right to every man that is committed, or detained in priſon,

prison, or otherwise restrained, though it be by command of the King, the Privy Council, or any other, as the most usual remedy by which a man is restored to his liberty; for that the King (by his Courts) is at all times entitled to have an account why the liberty of any of his subjects is restrained, wherever that restraint may be inflicted.

Because it appears to me, that the refusal of this Writ (at the same time that it inflicts a heavy fine, no less than 500 l. on every Judge who refuses it, in case he is empowered to grant it, as I think that this Court is, at the same time that it tends to defeat and render abortive the course of justice, in respect to the causes of which the Court has cognizance) may totally disable the party applying for it to shew, either here or any where else, or to any higher Tribunal, whether there has not been a flagrant abuse of power (as is indeed strongly set forth in the Petition of the present Right Honourable Suitor) and whether that power has not been exercised in a manner totally repugnant to law and liberty.

Because with me, and I believe with many others, it is at least become a matter of doubt, from the very matter set forth in the Petition, and more particularly from the public acts which have followed the violences therein set forth, whether there does exist any other legal and regular authority or jurisdiction in this Settlement, from which relief can be obtained in the matter complained of, or in any the like cases; and that therefore the effect of this Court's refusal will produce a failure of justice, which in any the smallest case, and to the poorest subject, should in my opinion be most carefully avoided; and rather than consent to so deplorable a situation, I make no difficulty in declaring, that the Court, not so well informed, I readily confess, in regard to the express letter of the law, but guided by the rules and principles of justice, in this exercise of their judgment, should adopt that course which tends to the relief of the subject, and take upon themselves the hazard of its being found erroneous, rather than fall into the still greater error (as I well believe it is) of refusing that relief, to which, in my opinion, every suitor of this Court is entitled; and if this opinion should hereafter be found erroneous, I have no doubt but that those, whose profession it is to form a better judgment in the case, will join with Sir Elijah Impey, in the report which he was pleased to give of the proceedings of the Mayor's Court at that place (in his speech to the first Grand Jury, which he had occasion to address at Calcutta) that though their proceedings had sometimes appeared to him a deviation from the course of administring justice, (which proceeded from the laudable motives of an easier and more speedy redress) it was no deviation from justice itself.

And becauſe of theſe reaſons, and in conformity to the oath of an Alderman of this Court, which I have taken, "To do right to all manner of peo-"ple, poor and rich, without fear or favour, according to the beſt of my "knowledge," I beg leave to diſſent to the Reſolution of this Court of to-day.

(Signed)

GEO. SMITH.

Copy of a Letter from Lord Pigot to Sir Edward Hughes, Knight, Commodore and Commander in Chief of his Majeſty's Ships in the Eaſt-Indies.

Received over-land by Mr. Dalrymple, 20th April, 1777.

SIR,

I have read with great attention the extraordinary letter to you from Mr. Stratton, &c. dated the 4th of this month; and as I am perſuaded your reply was very proper, I will preſume to aſk a copy thereof.

I muſt at this time take the liberty to repeat to you how eſſentially neceſſary it is that I ſhould be releaſed from the confinement I am under, as the ſecond day in the next month is the day appointed by myſelf, and the reſt of his Majeſty's Juſtices, at the laſt Seſſions of the Peace, Court of Oyer and Terminer and Gaol Delivery, held at Fort St. George on the 3d day of July laſt, and intimated in the precepts which were then directed to the Sheriff for ſummoning a Grand and Petty Jury to attend the Quarterly Court of the ſame Criminal Juriſdiction, appointed to be held by myſelf and others his Majeſty's Juſtices on the ſecond day of October next enſuing, as is expreſſed in the precepts ſo iſſued.

In making this repreſentation to you, Sir, who are honoured with a Commiſſion from his Majeſty, for the expreſs purpoſe of aiding and aſſiſting the Eaſt-India Company, I have theſe very ſerious and important conſiderations in my mind; the indiſpenſable obligation which I lay under, by the oaths of my allegiance and of my office, for the due and faithful execution of juſtice, as Preſident of the Criminal Courts conſtituted by the Royal Charter for the benefit of the Company's Settlements upon this Coaſt, and which expreſsly directs, that Quarter Seſſions of the Peace ſhall be held four times in the year, which ſhall alſo be a Court of Record, in the nature of a Court of Oyer and Terminer and Gaol Delivery, whereof the Governor or Preſident of Fort St. George, or, in his abſence, the Senior of the Council there reſiding, is expreſsly directed to be one.

The

The great hazard which may, and I apprehend will arise to the public, and the East-India Company, of a forfeiture of the Charter of Justice, for the due execution of which, if I do not forget, the East-India Company have pledged themselves to his Majesty, by an indenture duly executed by them, and entered of record in his courts at Westminster, upon their application for the aid and protection of the royal authority to the security and prosperity of their Settlements, and of the people of the several nations there resident; from a failure of which, whether arising from a disregard of the essential rules fixt and established, or other wilful impediment and irregularity, and still more so, if, from a total subversion and violent usurpation of the powers and authority thereby limited and established, the functions thereof should be assumed by persons who were regularly disqualified, and have since also by their own crimes rendered themselves doubly so, and indeed unworthy to execute any of those offices, duties, or functions required by the charter; and lastly, to prevent the stream of public justice from being contaminated in the course of it's legal and most essential authority, the criminal jurisdiction, which has been granted to the East-India Company for the trial and punishment of all offenders and offences (high treason excepted) had committed or done, or to be had, committed or done, within the town of Madrass, Fort St. George, or within any of the factories or places subordinate thereunto; a duty and trust of such high importance to the lives and liberties of all manner of persons, poor and rich, that any unauthorized execution thereof cannot be even attempted, without the utmost degree of temerity and presumption; and it is necessary to remember, that the least doubt or suspicion of the legality of the proceedings in this high department is sufficient to impeach the same.

Having represented this to you, I would have those who may have any intentions of taking upon themselves what will prove a high exaggeration of the guilt of their precedent conduct and actions, to think seriously of the consequences which will befall them, by sitting in the seat of judgment, and deciding on the laws of their country, in cases of life and liberty, under an authority, the truth and legality of which every man required to appear, either ministerially or judicially, may claim an undoubted right to question; and every criminal may impeach, even from the very circumstance of my present situation, and the attempt made for disqualifying my brethren, the other justices and judges, who, by adhering to their duty to the East-India Company, as they have done, do justly retain the due and legal exercise of the authority vested in the President or Governor and Council of Fort St. George by the royal charter, which repeatedly and clearly directs and enjoins, that the courts of justice, civil as well as criminal, which are thereby instituted,

tuted, cannot be held without the Prefident or Governor, or, in his abfence, the Senior of the Council then refident; for the unpeached obfervance of which I will refer you to thofe perfons themfelves, by whofe means I am at this time prevented from executing the duty of Prefident and Governor of Fort St. George; and yet, Sir, you will permit me to bring to your remembrance, that in the proclamation, which Mr. George Stratton and others his affociates have dared to publifh and announce, in the name of his Majefty and the Englifh Nation, they have had the folly or temerity to appeal to the Royal Charter in fupport of that refolution, on which they found their whole conduct in the forming and executing their violent meafures, "That a majority of the Council have a right to decide all queftions, "without the concurrence of the Prefident." And as I have no doubt but that I have now fatisfied you, that the Royal Charter, on the authority of which the legality of the criminal as well as civil jurifdiction alone refts, and can have any operation. I will not take up more of your time than again to repeat, how effential it is for the adminiftration of publick juftice, that I myfelf, and the other three Members of the Council, who are upon the fpot, and legally qualified, fhould exercife the functions which remain vefted in us by the Royal Charter for the adminiftration of juftice. I am therefore to requeft, that you will be pleafed to remonftrate to Mr. George Stratton, Sir Robert Fletcher, Meffrs. Henry Brooke, Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer, Francis Jourdan, and George Mackay, who have affumed the government of thefe Settlements, and detained my perfon under a ftrong military guard, to warn them in the moft ferious manner, that I do and fhall hold them, and each of them, anfwerable to the Eaft-India Company, to publick juftice, to myfelf, and the other Members of my Council, fhould any obftacles arifing from them, or any of them, prevent me and my brethren, the other juftices, from the execution of our feveral duties and functions.

And further, that fhould they themfelves prefume, incapacitated as they are, to execute the duties of judges of the criminal courts conftituted by the Royal Charter, I do and fhall hold them, and each of them, anfwerable to the Eaft-India Company and to publick juftice.

I have the honour to be,

St. Thomas's Mount,
30th September, 1776.

SIR,

Your moft obedient humble fervant,

† There feems to be fomething wanting in this place to complete the fenfe, but it is conformable to the copy.

LETTER from George Stratton, Esq. to John Roberts, Esq. Chairman of the Court of Directors, dated Fort St. George, 30th September 1776. Received by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper over-land the 2d of April 1777.

SIR,

I WRITE this as an apology in the name of myself and the Council, for the length of our public letter by this conveyance, and for the bad arrangement of many of the paragraphs, which was owing to the multiplicity of business we were engaged in; it was resolved at one time to alter the whole composition in regard to the style, &c. but we had not time to do this, or make it shorter, and we hope you will find patience to wade through much matter, great part of which might have been referred to instead of entering so minutely on the subject. To guide you and the Honorable Court in the reading of the most material parts, a paper of reference is enclosed. I am informed that Lord Pigot has wrote to a number of his friends, male and female, appealing to their pity, stating that his life is in danger, and his confinement intolerable: I beg, Sir, you will take the trouble to view the Letter from the Board to Major Horne on this subject, which will point out the truth; and I must also assure you upon my word of honor, that my daily reports from the Mount tell me he goes where he pleases with the officer attending him, sees his family, and is constantly with them the whole day, as well as many ladies and gentlemen from the Fort; that his friends assist him in his dispatches, and that he is not now or ever was in any danger of his life. The public Letter we wrote to him long since also tells him that he has the choice of going to any chiefship, or a passage to England on any of the Company's ships; all this and much more has been repeatedly told him by Major Horne, and I thought it necessary to mention the same particularly to you in our vindication, and to shew that we do not mean to solicit your support by appealing to the passions, but by the representation of facts.

In a Letter I have just now received from the Rajah of Tanjore, he declares to me that he was never under any alarms and fears (as mentioned so often to the Board by Lord Pigot) that it was never his wish or desire to have a Chief and Council or Resident at Tanjore; and that he should look on such an appointment as an implied declaration that the Government of the Tanjore province had been transferred from the Nabob to the Company, and that those therefore who could have proposed such a measure were not his friends; my information from Tanjore, which I can depend upon, tells me that the Rajah is entirely beset by the creatures of Moodoo Kistnah

(Lord Pigot's Dubaſh) ſo that he is made to believe the moſt ridiculous ſtories; this cannot be prevented, as I have declared in my letter to him, that I will not directly or indirectly interfere in his Government, ſo that we muſt have patience until time and circumſtances can undeceive him; mean while my utmoſt attention ſhall be applied in putting the Fortreſs of Tanjore in a proper ſtate of defence.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your moſt obedient humble Servant,

JOHN ROBERTS, Eſq. G. STRATTON.

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Subſtance of debates about Lord Pigot's going to Tanjore.	From par. 20 to par. 30 included.
Relative to Lord Pigot's proceedings at Tanjore, and Mr. Benfield's claims on the Tanjore country.	From par. 31 to par. 82 included.
Nabob's complaint to Sir Edward Hughes againſt Lord Pigot, together with ſubſtance of Sir Edward Hughes's Letter in conſequence, and of the anſwer of the Board.	From par. 82 to par. 90 included.
Subſtance of Letters to and from the Governor-General and Council at Bengal, relative to Lord Pigot's proceedings at Tanjore.	From par. 90 to par. 96 included.
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From par. 146 to 168. Substance of debates about the instructions to Colonel Stuart, Lord Pigot's attempt to suspend Messieurs Stratton and Brooke. Proceedings in consequence.

From par. 168 to par. 179 included. Proceedings of the Majority of the Council after separating themselves from Lord Pigot and his adherents.

From par. 179 to par. 197 included. Lord Pigot's arrest. Residence at the Mount, with substance of Letter to and from Sir Edward Hughes, on the subject of Lord Pigot's having claimed the protection of the King's flag.

From par. 197 to par. 209 included. Remarks on the illegal and arbitrary proceedings of Lord Pigot.

From par. 209 to par. 213 included. Referring the Court of Directors to the Letter and Resolution of the Governor-General and Council, and setting forth the criminality of Lord Pigot's conduct towards the Nabob, pointing out the Nabob's unshaken attachment to the Company, and likewise the necessity there is at this present juncture strenuously to improve the connexion subsisting between the Nabob and the Company.

Paragraph 214. Remark on Lord Pigot's being the first Member of the Board to move a previous question.

From par. 215 to par. 216 included. Relative to the Falsification of the Records by Lord Pigot, and his avowed contempt of the Act of Parliament, and of the instructions to the Governor-General and Council of Bengal, as well as his declared intention to suppress or destroy any Letter addressed to the Governor and Council that he should think proper.

From 217 to 224 included. Lord Pigot's criminal conduct, in inattention paid to positive orders from the Governor-General and Council at Bengal, for prosecuting a war in the beginning of the year with Marattas.

Paragr. 225. Suppression of a Letter from the Nabob by Lord Pigot.

From 226 to 230. Remarks on draught of a Letter to the Court of Directors laid before the Board by Lord Pigot 22d June.

From 230 to 235. Remarks on part of a draught of a Letter to the Court of Directors laid before the Board by Lord Pigot to be sent by the Grenville.

 Remarks

Remarks on Mr. Dalrymple's violence and arbitrary doctrines. Paragr. 235.

Reasons for having detained Lord Pigot in arrest, and for not having given in charges against him. Paragr. 236, 237.

Information lodged against Lord Pigot by Mr. Benfield of his having received considerable sums of money and jewels, &c. from the Princes of the country, together with the reply of the Governor and Council. From 239 to 241.

General Letter from George Stratton, Henry Brooke, Efquires, Sir Robert Fletcher, Knight, Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer, and George Mackay, Efquires, dated Fort St. George, the 24th of September 1776.

To the Honorable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honorable the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East-Indies.

HONORABLE,

Paragraph 1. WE had the honor to addrefs you a General and Separate Letter from this department per Ankerwyke, dated 14th February, duplicates whereof you will have received by the Hillfborough, that failed from hence the 20th of the fame month.

2. We likewife addreffed you a fhort Letter 14th May, which was to have been conveyed to you by the Grenville, then meant to be difpatched from Bombay; duplicate of this Letter, together with one addreffed to your Honors by Lord Pigot, were tranfmitted to you by a French fhip that failed from Pondicherry the latter end of laft June, triplicate now waits on you a number in the packet.

3. The Grenville being arrived here from Bombay, and to be finally difpatched for England, affords us an opportunity of continuing to your Honors a full account of the political and military tranfactions of this Government fince the departure of the Ankerwyke.

4. Before we begin however upon the narrative of our proceedings, it will be neceffary we acquaint your Honors that a feries of illegal, violent, and oppreffive meafures on the part of Lord Pigot, in which he was aided by Meffieurs Ruffell, Dalrymple, and Stone, brought your affairs at length to fo dangerous a crifis, that we were driven to the neceffity of putting his Lordfhip in arreft, and of fufpending thofe gentlemen from the fervice of the Company until your pleafure fhall be known. In the fequel you will perceive the immediate caufes which obliged us to come to this refolution. The only alternative left us, was to abandon our conftitutional rights, and the truft you had repofed in us, or firmly to affert the powers we were invefted with, and remove from the Government a man, whofe arbitrary principles would inevitably have involved your affairs in inextricable difficulties. The plan we fhall purfue in ftating to you thefe tranf-actions,

actions, shall be as candid to his Lordship and his adherents as the subject will possibly admit of. We only beg your indulgence till we come to the latter part of this Address, when we shall enter into a full and particular discussion of them.

5. Our separate Letter by the Ankerwyke will have informed your Honors of the release of the Rajah of Tanjore, of the Fort of Tanjore's having been evacuted by the Nabob's troops, and in consequence of its being garrisoned by a proper force of yours, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Harper.

6. Shortly after the departure of the Ankerwyke, we received a long Letter from the Nabob, stating to us the ill conduct of the Rajah of Tanjore, previous to his having gone against him, and the weighty reasons which had compelled him to take that step in concert with your troops under the command of General Smith. 11 March.

7. On the first expedition against Tanjore, the Nabob represents that his eldest son, Umdit-ul-Omrah, whom he had sent with General Smith, had settled matters amicably with the Rajah, and stipulated with him for the payment of certain sums, which the Rajah solemnly engaged himself to discharge; the non-performance of which stipulations on the part of the Rajah having involved his Highness's finances in the utmost distress, was the first cause which induced him to take up arms the second time against him.

8. That in carrying on the two sieges he had contracted such considerable debts, as had reduced him to the utmost difficulties, in raising troops for the defence of those forts and countries in other parts of his dominions, that were left defenceless by the old troops having been drafted from them to go against Tanjore; in paying batta to the army on both expeditions, as well as other expenses, and in paying to the Dutch large sums for the release of such districts as they were in possession of. And that in consequence, all these heavy debts contracted for the peace and security of his and your possessions, would now lie heavy on him; that your orders were to restore the Rajah of Tanjore to the full and entire possession of his dominions.

9. He then proceeds to say, that having cheerfully received a Garrison of his friends, the Company, into Tanjore, he was ready, until your further orders should arrive, to increase the allowance he had from the beginning

made the Rajah, and to pay the expenses of any Garrison we should determine upon. That he took Tanjore, knowing his own honor, as well as that of his friends, to be concerned; but could he have foreseen the difficulties, which from your orders were consequent on that measure, though the tranquillity of the Carnatic was much disturbed, and our mutual interests suffered by it, he would not have taken up arms to punish his tributary, or bring him to that degree of subordination, which was at length become so essential to the peace and prosperity of his dominions.

Ibid. No. 10. 10. This being the substance of the Letter in question from the Nabob, we thought adviseable to write him an immediate answer, wherein we, as delicately as possible, represented to him that your orders were to restore the country of Tanjore to the Rajah; but such was our solicitude to do every thing in concert with his Highness, that these orders were yet unexecuted, notwithstanding an English Garrison had been almost a month in the Fort of Tanjore. That humanity to the wretched inhabitants, distressed beyond measure by the miserable state of the country, possessed of no kind of Government, either of his Highness or of the Rajah, as well as justice to the Rajah, who was still scarcely better than a prisoner, and attention to the public honor, made it absolutely necessary the orders of the Company should be carried into immediate effect.

11. We therefore begged leave to repeat our former request, that his Highness would give an order directed to all his Amuldars, &c. in the Tanjore country, to relinquish all manner of authority when called upon by us to do so, and to account with such persons as we should name for such sums as had been collected in the Tanjore country, from the day on which your Letter relative to Tanjore had been presented to him; and likewise that he would inform us of the amount of such orders as he had given on the country.

22 March. 12. This produced a reply from his Highness a few days after, in which he says, it was not by a needless expense in superfluous show and parade he had fallen under the burthen of the heavy debt which then oppressed him, but in the expenses of the defence of Madrass, and the taking of Pondicherry in the course of our war with France, the expedition against Madura, the war with the Soubah of the Decan, which happened in consequence of our taking possession of the northern Circars, and afterwards from the attempt to get the Dewannee of the Mysore country. The war waged against it, the defraying the expenses of his own forces, as well as those of the Company, in that war, and finally from the incursion of Hyder Ally Khan, none of which owed their rise to him

him, as he had already fully represented in his Letter of the 30th of January 1770, and in addition thereto, from the ten Lacks of Pagodas he had paid on account of the Mysore war.

13. That all these expenses had been incurred in assisting his friends the Company, but those which he had been under the necessity of contracting for the reduction of Tanjore, were with a view to the tranquillity of the Carnatic, and the ease and welfare of his people; for otherwise the greatest disorders would have arose from the ill conduct of the Rajah, and from his soliciting succour from the Marattas, the Dutch, &c. as he had explained to us in his former Letters.

14. He did not, he says, hesitate in receiving a Garrison of his friends the English into the Fort of Tanjore, by way of security, as into his other Forts, that there might be a strong proof of his firm friendship for the Company; but if any one should think, notwithstanding this, that in putting the Fort under the protection of the Company, in agreeing to defray the expenses of the Garrison, in offering to settle a considerable Jaghire on the Rajah, and also to give to the Company whatever they might expect from the Rajah, should he be restored, that he had not applied himself to execute your orders, it was his misfortune; that your Honors had never been furnished with a complete and perfect account of the circumstances of the case, and were still so unacquainted with it, as to believe for a certainty, the Rajah to be a prisoner in Trichinopoly: but he was convinced whenever his Majesty, the Parliament of England, and the Company should understand the real and certain state of the affair, they would then approve of the conduct of their old Ally and friend, in withholding his consent to the dishonor of himself and family, and the ruin of the future interests of the Company, and the English nation in India. That so far from the country of Tanjore being distressed, and the inhabitants in the miserable state represented to us, it never had been in so prosperous a condition, many of the inhabitants being returned who had fled from the oppressions of the Rajah; and as a sure and certain sign of the industry of the people, and the care and attention paid to their rights, that agriculture was never carried to a greater height than during the time it was governed by his managers.

15. And lastly, in answer to our request, that his Highness would grant an order to his Amuldars in the Tanjore country to relinquish all manner of authority when required by us to do so, and to account with persons we should name for what money had been collected since the day he received your Letter, he replies, he had invariably, from the first, declared his

 sentiments

ſentiments in a uniform manner, with reſpect to his right to the Tanjore country; and therefore it was his earneſt entreaty we would not interfere in the management of it, until your pleaſure ſhould be known.

16. Seeing this rooted diſinclination in the Nabob to give up his claim of right to the Tanjore country, although he admitted a Garriſon 22d March. of your troops into the Fort, we addreſſed him another Letter on the ſubject, conceived in ſuch terms as would plainly ſhew him your orders were poſitive, and muſt be obeyed.

17. We acquainted him the former buſineſs of Tanjore had been well deliberated upon by your Honors, and that your orders in conſequence were not iſſued, until they had been laid before his Majeſty's Miniſters for their approval.

18. We entreated him to call to his remembrance the difficulties he was able to encounter, when the Company's power and his were united; that the Company had given him their ſupport when he was alike deſtitute of money, and of power, and that they would continue to him that ſupport; but the public faith was pledged to the Rajah, as well as to him, and the Company's poſitive orders were to put the country of Tanjore again into the poſſeſſion of the Rajah.

19. That after this, what language could we uſe to induce him to make the reſtoration of the Rajah his own act, if all the arguments we had already ſuggeſted, had not had their proper force? and with what concern, after the Company having acted in concert with him through ſo many difficulties, ſhould we be under the neceſſity of carrying their orders into effect by their authority alone? the world would juſtify us in the obedience we ſhould ſhew to the commands of our Maſters, and having never failed in the part of friendſhip, in reſpect, and in propriety of conduct towards him, we truſted we ſhould ſtand excuſed, after the preſſing manner we had ſo often urged him to do that from himſelf, which was right and proper, as well reſpecting his intereſt as his dignity.

20. A few days after this Lord Pigot, unto whom we had entruſted the whole management of this delicate and important buſineſs, as you have been before adviſed, acquainted us, " That judging from the Letter from " the Nabob above quoted, that he would not give his conſent to our " carrying into execution the orders we had received from you; and the " ſtate of the crop in the Tanjore country not being in a ſituation to ad- " mit of any further delay, he had determined, with our approbation,

" to

" to set out immediately for that country to carry your orders into effect,
" by placing the Rajah in the full possession and management of his
" dominions."

21. In the propriety of this determination we unanimously concurred, his Lordship having first moved a question to that purpose.

22. The safety of Tanjore likewise, and the security of the Rajah and his family, made it appear to us not only necessary that an English garrison should be in the Fort, but that his whole country should be defended by your troops; we accordingly resolved to send a battalion of Seapoys thither, the better to enable him to collect in his revenues, if such a measure should prove agreeable to him. And as the security of the Carnatic can depend only upon a well-discipled force, regularly paid, we were induced to hope the Rajah of Tanjore would join us in our endeavours to place the country in such a situation.

23. At the same Consultation that we came to the above resolutions, of its being proper and necessary for Lord Pigot to go to Tanjore, for the reasons assigned in his Minute entered on the proceedings of that day, the following questions were also moved by him, and carried in the affirmative by a Majority of the Board.

24. " That in virtue of the Commission of Government, the Governor
" holds the same authority, when present in any Fort, Factory, or Settle-
" ment under this Presidency, that he does when present in Fort St.
" George." And,

25. " That the Governor may take whatsoever servant of the Com-
" pany he chuses with him to Tanjore, either civil or military."

26. These Questions met with opposition, as your Honors will observe on reference to the Consultation where they are recorded.

27. Sir Robert Fletcher, Messrs Palmer, Jourdan, and Mackay, who were against them, argued on the first Question; That although they had assented unanimously, " It was proper and necessary for Lord Pigot to " go to Tanjore for the reasons set forth in his Minute," yet they had done so upon the idea that more Members of the Council would upon a subsequent Motion be joined in a deputation with his Lordship, under express and particular instructions signed by the Board, for a business of so much importance as the taking a country of such considerable Revenue 29th March.

 from

from the Nabob and giving it to the Rajah, required ſuch a deputation; and as a military force might be neceſſary to put the Rajah in poſſeſſion, and the principal part of the treaty to be made with him was military arrangements, that the military Commander in Chief ought to be a Member of that Deputation.

28. That had your Honors judged it neceſſary to leave the management of this buſineſs ſolely to his Lordſhip, your orders would have expreſſed it, and therefore their giving him greater powers than you had done, was in their opinion inconſiſtent with their duty to the Company, and what they owed to themſelves; that the precedent was dangerous, and might be uſed to bad purpoſes. If Lord Pigot could, by going alone, render any eſſential ſervice which he could not do at the head of a deputation, they ſhould not object to his being given ſuch extraordinary powers for a time; but as they were certain he could not, they were againſt his going without a deputation; and accordingly it was moved by Sir Robert Fletcher, but carried againſt the queſtion, "That at leaſt two Members "of the Council ſhould be joined with Lord Pigot in a deputation.

29. On the ſecond queſtion it was argued, The Board having reſolved that Lord Pigot ſhould go to Tanjore, it was abſurd to ſuppoſe any objections could be made to his having every proper aſſiſtance; but by his queſtion, "That he ſhould take whatever ſervants with him, either "civil or military, that he thought proper," he might if he choſe carry with him Members of the Council and the Commander in Chief, the former of whom ſhould never be employed where they had not a ſhare of the management, nor the latter where he did not command; that he might moreover take with him, in ſubordinate ſtations, Members of the Government, who by your orders were ſpecially and by name joined with him as principals in the buſineſs of the commiſſion he was going to execute, and therefore were bound either to act as principals at Tanjore or at the Board, by holding a regular correſpondence and ſending orders to the deputation, as circumſtances might require. And on the third queſtion, That it ſeemed totally to ſubvert the preſent conſtitution of the Company, at once to fruſtrate and elude the late orders and regulations of the General Court, and to ſuperſede the commiſſion of the Commander in Chief of the forces in India, as well as that of the Commander in Chief on this eſtabliſhment. That the Commiſſion of Government was the commiſſion of the whole Board, and gave no ſeparate authority whatever to the Governor. That the only military authority which by your orders he could hold, when abſent from Madraſs, was the command of his own guard, as particularly and poſitively expreſſed in the forty-ſecond article of the

late

late orders respecting the powers to be exercised by military Commanders in Chief, and that that was given him out of compliment to his station, and not to perform any military operations.

30. A reply to these arguments your Honors will find from Mr. Dalrymple in Consultation 10th June. 10th June.

31. Conformably however to the beforegoing resolutions, Lord Pigot set out for Tanjore on the 30th of March, and arrived at that place the 8th of April.

32. Previous however to his departure he received two Letters from the Nabob, the one reiterating the arguments he had made use of from the beginning for his still keeping possession of the Tanjore country, till your further orders should arrive, and the other declaring he never could give up that right to it which he possessed; but as his whole dependence was placed in the English Nation and the Company, he would consent to set apart, after discharging the debts he had contracted, paying the troops garrisoned in Tanjore, and the other necessary expenses of the Government of that country, whatever overplus might arise from the collections, and let it remain untouched until an answer to the representations he had made to you should arrive from Europe, when he would deliver it up, if such should be your final pleasure.

33. Your orders however to us, to put the Rajah into the full and entire possession and management of his country were positive, and those orders therefore could not admit of any farther procrastination on our part.

34. On the 11th April proclamation was made by Lord Pigot at Tanjore, That it having been your pleasure the Rajah should be restored, all officers civil and military, and all persons living under your protection, were thereby required to consider the Rajah of Tanjore as again restored to the Government of his country, in the full extent of that Government as he possessed it at the conclusion of the treaty in 1762, and to give him all proper aid and assistance. 24th April.

35. A few days after the arrival of Lord Pigot at Tanjore, the Rajah addressed him a Letter, representing the then condition of his country to be such, as that the placing a Garrison of English troops in the fort was not only necessary, but it was likewise of consequence troops should be allowed him for the defence of his whole country; for the expenses of which Ibid.

he would with pleaſure aſſign the Company four Lacks of Pagodas per annum.

36. His finances likewiſe being in utter diſorder, and the ſtate of his country in the greateſt confuſion, he found it neceſſary to throw himſelf upon the Company for his preſent ſupport, and therefore requeſted we would purchaſe of him, at a reaſonable rate, all the grain of the preſent year, excepting ſuch as his country might ſtand in need of.

37. He alſo deſired as Devy Cotah had no country annexed to it, we would take ſuch part as we ſhould think proper for a dependency thereon.

24th April. 38. This Letter from the Rajah being tranſmitted to us by Lord Pigot, together with his own ſentiments, we were of opinion the offer of the Rajah, to allow four Lacks of Pagodas annually for the expenſe of the troops to be kept for the defence of his fort and country, did not correſpond with your orders, which direct the garriſon for the fort of Tanjore ſhould be aſcertained, and the expenſe defrayed by the Rajah, according to the particular and regular accounts to be delivered to him; and therefore that the Rajah ſhould be informed, when the ſtrength of the garriſon ſhould be determined by the Board, no more of that ſum than ſhould be found neceſſary to defray the expenſes of it ſhould be required from him, but, if he choſe, ſuch a force for the protection of his country ſhould be kept up as he would provide funds for.

Ibid. 39. With reſpect to purchaſing the grain of the preſent year, a Majority of the Board concurred in opinion with Lord Pigot, it was proper and neceſſary ſo to do. Thoſe who were averſe to the meaſure were of opinion it ſhould not be purchaſed until the matter was well conſidered, and it appeared it was not grain mortgaged by the Nabob to individuals during the time he had the Government of the Tanjore country.

40. The Rajah, however, was made acquainted with our acquieſcence in his requeſt, and deſired to collect the grain as near as poſſible the ſea coaſt, for the quicker tranſportation of it hither by boats.

41. The offer of country round Devy Cotah we declined, as we thereby acted conformably to your expreſs commands.

42. During

42. During the time Lord Pigot was at Tanjore, we received a Letter from Mr. Paul Benfield, setting forth claims he declared himself to have on the Tanjore country, for loans he had made to the Nabob whilst that country was under the government of his Highness, and therefore requesting we would afford him all reasonable aid and assistance to secure to him the recovery of his property while Lord Pigot remained in authority at Tanjore. These claims Mr. Benfield had made application to his Lordship about at Tanjore, previous to the delivery of the country to the Rajah, but his Lordship's reply was, that "he was unable, without "the aid and assistance of his Council, to say more, than that he "would, on his return to Madrass, lay Mr. Benfield's claims before "them." 24th April.

43. Mr. Benfield likewise informed us, that he had communicated to Lord Pigot at Madrass, previous to his departure for Tanjore, the nature of his claims, and from what his Lordship had said to him, that he had been encouraged to accompany him thither. He also gave us to understand, he should be ready at any time to lay before us sufficient vouchers for the authenticity of his claims.

44. This being a matter of consequence, the claims of Mr. Benfield being very considerable, we resolved to wait till the return of Lord Pigot, who could particularly inform us of every thing which had passed between him and Mr. Benfield at Tanjore (whither that gentleman accompanied him) relative to the business in question.

45. This resolution however was not unanimous, some Members of our Council being of opinion, the waiting till the return of Lord Pigot would probably be prejudicial to Mr. Benfield; or at least, if such should be the resolution, that Lord Pigot should be informed, the grain mortgaged to Mr. Benfield by the Nabob should not be meddled with, either by his Lordship or the Rajah, until we had come to a final determination thereupon.

46. On the 3d of May Lord Pigot returned from Tanjore. Previous, 24th April.
however to his Lordship's arrival, we received two Letters from the 29th April.
Nabob, as referred to in the margin; the one complaining of a party of Europeans having entered his country in a hostile manner by order of Lord Pigot, and of their having forcibly seized and carried to Tanjore some of his principal officers, together with all the private and public papers of his Government that they had in their possession; and the other representing the great trouble of mind he laboured under, by hearing that a company

company of Seapoys were on the point of marching to take possession of Ramnaut and Shavagunga, two districts belonging to him, and entirely independent of the Tanjore country.

29th April. 47. To these Letters we did not immediately reply; we only acknowledged their receipt, and acquainted the Nabob we expected Lord Pigot in a few days, when we made no doubt he would clear up every thing to his Highness's satisfaction.

13th May. 48. Lord Pigot being returned from Tanjore, laid before us a diary of his proceedings, with such Letters and papers as he had thought worthy of notice, and he had not communicated to us before.

49. He remarked to us, "That the sentiments expressed in our "General Letter to your Honors per Ankerwyke, with the unanimous "concurrence of the Board at that time, as well as in Consultation "25th March last, so clearly declared the expediency, not to say "necessity, of having the whole military force in the Carnatic under the "Company, and paid by them, that it had given him much satisfaction "to find the Rajah of Tanjore very heartily concurred in the wish of "the Board, that he would join them in their endeavours to place the "Carnatic in such a situation; and being sensible of the advantage of "having his country thus protected by the Company, he had requested "their assistance to that effect, and offered to make an annual assignment "of 400,000 Pagodas for that purpose. That this stipulated sum "would not only afford a sufficiency for defraying the expenses of the "troops necessary for the protection of the Tanjore country, but would "also leave a balance, adequate, he hoped, to our military expenses not "paid by the Nabob; and that he had the assurances of the Rajah, the "four Lacks of Pagodas was considerably less than his military force "had usually cost him."

13th May. 50. On considering the whole of Lord Pigot's proceedings while at Tanjore, a Majority of the Board voted a Minute of approbation thereon. The Minority were, Sir Robert Fletcher, who approved of the acceptance of the four Lacks of Pagodas per annum, but could not change the opinions he gave in Consultation 24th April, and retired from the Board indisposed, before Lord Pigot's other proceedings were taken into consideration; Mr. Stratton, Mr. Palmer, and Mr. Jourdan, who approved of Lord Pigot's proceedings in all but the seizure of the Dobbeer in the Nabob's country, as complained of in the Nabob's Letter during his Lordship's

ship's absence; and Mr. Mackay, who approved of Lord Pigot's proceedings, excepting in the seizure of the Dobbeer in the Nabob's country, and in flogging Comarah Dubash on the public parade. A Diary of these proceedings, to which we beg you will be referred, is entered on our Consultations that wait on you by this dispatch.

51. It was likewise resolved, "That the request of the Rajah of Tanjore, " not only to garrison the fort, but to protect the country of Tanjore " by the Company's troops, in consideration of his paying Pagodas " 400,000 per annum, should be complied with." 13th May.

52. The reply made by Lord Pigot to the Nabob, in consequence of the Letters we had received from his Highness during his Lordship's absence, and in which he complained of acts of hostility having been committed against him by Lord Pigot's order, is entered on our Proceedings, to which we beg you will be referred. 13th May.

53. Having resolved, as we have already informed you, to wait the return of Lord Pigot from Tanjore, before we took into consideration the claims of Mr. Benfield on that country, we accordingly set apart an early day after his Lordship's arrival for that purpose.

54. This Mr. Benfield was made acquainted with, and at the same time informed he was given that notice, in order that he might prepare and lay before us whatever else he might have to offer on the subject of his claims on the Tanjore country. 17th May.

55. We accordingly received on the day appointed two Letters from Mr. Benfield, acquainting us, that since his former Address he had been informed the grain of the present crop, delivered over to him by the Circar on account of his claims, had been taken possession of by the Company's Seapoys and the people of the Rajah; also of the seizure of that which had been delivered on account of the debts of the inhabitants to the Circar, assigned over to him; and likewise of his people having been removed from their stations in the mortgaged districts, and from collecting the debts of the inhabitants assigned to him; and that a stop had been put to his selling the grain of the last year, which he had received from the Nabob on account of former loans in the different parts of the Tanjore country. And further he had been informed, that with the same power which had been before exercised, his grain had been seized, his people driven away from collecting the debts due to him from the inhabitants, 20th May.

bitants, and that grain which those inhabitants had mortgaged and delivered over to him as security for their debts, had likewise been taken possession of.

56. This representation of Mr. Benfield being a matter of serious consequence, and several of our Members being indisposed and absent when it was read, we resolved his Letters should lie for the consideration of a full Board; and in the mean time we called upon him, pursuant to his Letter of the 22d April, for sufficient vouchers, &c. of his claims, as well as to furnish us with every necessary information relative to the nature and circumstances of those claims, and the periods at which they were contracted.

28th May. 57. In consequence of this, we received a Letter from Mr. Benfield at our next meeting, stating to us fully and particularly the nature of his claims on the Tanjore country, to which we beg you will be referred, together with a translate of a certificate given him by the Nabob for their authenticity.

58. These Letters therefore, together with all such others as he had addressed, either to us or to Lord Pigot, we attentively considered; but not finding that satisfactory account of some circumstances necessary towards forming a proper judgment on the subject, we called upon Mr. Benfield for an account of the particulars of the sums he had received from the Tanjore country, as well as for certain vouchers we deemed it of consequence to have produced.

29th May. 59. The next morning we accordingly assembled in Council, and read a Letter from Mr. Benfield.

Ibid. 60. In answer to one part of which, where he complains "Of the injuries he had sustained from the measures and conduct of the Right Honorable Lord Pigot, while acting under the commission of the Board, in causing the grain that had been deposited with him to be seized by the Company's Seapoys, and in depriving him of the means further to collect the revenues;" Lord Pigot observed, that reference might be made to the resolution of Council the 25th March last, to the orders given the officer commanding the battalion of Seapoys, and to the form of an order from him to such officers as he should send on detachment; and then desired our opinions "As to the propriety of those orders with respect to

Ibid.

" the resolutions of Council 25th March, and the power we had vested
" in him to carry your orders into execution."

61. A Majority of the Board voted an affirmative opinion on those measures.

62. A Resolution then passed to furnish Mr. Benfield with a copy of those orders, and to inform him, if his people could point out any officer or Seapoy who had acted improperly, and he would represent the particulars of such conduct to us, the necessary enquiries should be made accordingly.

63. Lord Pigot then moved the following question, which was carried in the affirmative by a Majority of six to five: Ibid.

64. " That the Rajah of Tanjore being put in the possession and ma-
" nagement of his country by the Company's express orders, it is the
" opinion of this Board, that it is not in their power to comply with Mr.
" Benfield's requests in any respect, those claims on individuals which
" bear the appearance of having no connexion with Government, not be-
" ing sufficiently explained to enable the Board to form an opinion there-
" on, and the assignments of the Nabob not being admissible."

65. The dissents to this Resolution are entered in Consultation referred to in the margin. 3d June.

66. The same day on which these dissents were given in, Mr. Brooke, who had voted at the former discussion of this matter for the question, moved the Board, for reasons set forth in a Minute which he recorded on the occasion, to re-consider the Proceedings of the 29th May, relative to Mr. Benfield's claims on the Tanjore country.

67. This request of Mr. Brooke was accordingly complied with, and a day set apart for that purpose.

68. The subject however did not come under debate so soon as was expected, some Members of the Board, particularly Mr. Floyer, who had just arrived from England and taken his seat, desiring a further time to read and consider the papers entered on the occasion.

69. Mr.

69. Mr. Floyer, on the day he took his feat as a Member of this Goverment, 6th June, informed the Board, that in confequence of his appointment from your Honors to fucceed Mr. Whitehill in the Chiefship of Mazulipatam, and that gentleman having taken his departure for Europe, he was ready to repair to the ftation you had been pleafed to appoint him; upon which your late Prefident obferved, that he fhould have fome particular matters relative to the Northern Circars to lay before the Board in a few days, and he therefore hoped the Board would poftpone entering upon Mr. Floyer's appointment until he had done fo. The Majority of the Board were of opinion, that your orders concerning him fhould be implicitly obeyed, but confented to defer this matter for the reafon affigned by Lord Pigot. But Mr. Floyer perceiving an unwillingnefs in his Lordfhip to proceed upon the execution of your orders relative to his appointment to Mazulipatam, he again moved the Board on the 21ft of June to take thofe orders into confideration, as your late Prefident had been totally filent on the fubject he informed the Board he fhould in a few days lay before us, and we accordingly fignified to the Council of Mazulipatam your appointment of him to that Chiefship. We beg leave to refer your Honors to the Minutes recorded on this occafion by your late Prefident and Mr. Dalrymple.

70. A few days after the arrival of Mr. Floyer, the Board entered upon a reconfideration of your late Prefident's Motion of the 29th May, refpecting the property of the laft year's crop of grain in the Tanjore country; when Mr. Floyer took occafion to requeft permiffion to decline giving his fentiments or vote thereupon, as he deemed it a fubject of great importance, of which he could not pretend to a competent knowledge with the little information he fhould be able to obtain on the fubject; and urged, as a further reafon for his not interfering in the queftion, that he might probably err in the opinion he might give, and that as his duty called him to Mazulipatam, he fhould not have it in his power, by being at his ftation, to remedy the evils which his vote might entail, if the fubject fhould on any future occafion come again under the difcuffion of the Board. To which the Prefident, Meffieurs Dawfon, Ruffell, Dalrymple, and Stone replied, he might eafily make himfelf mafter of the fubject, and therefore infifted, though entirely againft his inclination, that he fhould give his fentiments, and vote on the occafion. Compelled in this manner, Mr. Floyer reluctantly complied, as your Honors will perceive on reference to the proceedings.

71. What his Lordſhip's intentions could be, in thus forcing Mr. Floyer to give his ſentiments and vote on the *re-conſideration* of a ſubject that had been fully diſcuſſed before his arrival, is a matter we ſhall not here touch upon; we only ſubmit it to your candour, if it would not have been more equitable to have allowed Mr. Floyer to proceed to his appointment at Mazulipatam, or at leaſt to have permitted him to remain ſilent on the occaſion, than to have forcibly compelled him to be a party in a matter which had already been determined upon.

72. In the mean while a Minute was given in by Mr. Dalrymple, not merely relating to Mr. Benfield's claims on the Tanjore country, but as the diſcuſſion concerned the Nabob, the Tanjore country, your orders, and our Reſolutions in conſequence. 10th June.

73. This Minute has been fully replied to by Sir Robert Fletcher in Conſultation 24th June, to which we beg you will be referred.

74. At our next meeting Lord Pigot moved, that the Reſolution of Council the 29th May, "declaring Mr. Benfield's claims not to have been "ſufficiently explained, and the Nabob's aſſignments to be inadmiſſible," ſhould ſtand confirmed; but on the queſtion's being put, it was carried in the negative ſeven to five. 13th June.

75. The next day Lord Pigot moved us again to come to the Reſolution, "That all the claims of Mr. Benfield were private and not public "concerns;" but this likewiſe being put to the vote, was carried in the negative. 14th June.

76. And the following Reſolutions propoſed by Mr. Mackay were paſſed in the affirmative by a Majority of ſeven to five.

1ſt. "That it is the opinion of the Board, that the Nabob had a right "to the Government-ſhare of the crop in the Tanjore-country, the pro- "duce of grain ſown during the time it was in his poſſeſſion, and that "any mortgages he may have given on the ſame are good."

2d. "That a Letter be written to the Rajah of Tanjore to inform him "of the above Reſolution of the Board, and to recommend to him to "give Mr. Benfield all reaſonable aſſiſtance in recovering ſuch debts as

"appear to be justly due to him from the inhabitants, as well as to re-
"store to him the grain of last year, which was in the possession of his
"people, and said to be forcibly taken from them." And,

3d. "That it be further recommended to the Rajah to account with "Mr. Benfield for the Government-share of the grain in the districts assigned to him by the Nabob, and said to be forcibly taken from his "people."

14th June. 77. On reference to the debates on these resolutions your Honors will be pleased to observe the Votes stood in the following order:

For	Against
Mr. Stratton,	Lord Pigot,
Sir Robert Fletcher,	Mr. Dawson,
Mr. Brooke,	Mr. Russell,
Mr. Floyer,	Mr. Dalrymple,
Mr. Palmer,	Mr. Stone.
Mr. Jourdan,	
Mr. Mackay.	

78. When these Resolutions had been passed, Lord Pigot acquainted us, if his Question, declaring Mr. Benfield's claims to be of a private instead of a public nature, had been carried in the affirmative, he would have followed it with this Motion:

79. "That as it appears to this Board, that Mr. Benfield's transactions "with the Country Government are contrary to the express orders of the "Company, and that any interference therein may raise apprehensions in the "Rajah of Tanjore, and tend to involve the Company's affairs on this "Coast; for which reason it is resolved, that this matter be referred to the "Court of Directors."

80. This is entered on the Proceedings of that day, at his Lordship's particular desire.

13th, 17th, 20th, 28th, and 29th May. 3d, 10th, 13th, 14th, 17th, and 24th June. 81. For a more full and comprehensive knowledge of this subject, we beg leave to request your Honors will be referred to our Consultations, and to the several Minutes that have been delivered in on the occasion, as noted in the Margin.

82. On

82. On the 3d June we received a Letter from Sir Edward Hughes, acquainting us, it was with much concern he found himself under the necessity of interfering in any respect between your Representatives and the Nabob; but that the application, which he enclosed from his Highness, was of so alarming a tendency, he could not avoid laying it before us as soon as possible; part of the King's instructions to him being to do his utmost to promote the interests of his Majesty, as well as of your's, or of such Indian princes as you have already or may contract engagements with, among whom the Nabob of the Carnatic held the most distinguished place. 3d June.

83. That his duty to the King his master, his zeal for the Company's welfare, and the feeling he had for the distresses of so good a friend to both, were to him the most urgent motives for writing to us; when he made not a doubt we would take such measures in consequence, as would effectually protect the Nabob from such alarms in future, the national honor and interest, as well as the welfare of the Company, being materially connected with the just security of his Highness.

84. The Letter enclosed to us by Sir Edward Hughes, addressed to to him by the Nabob, was in purport as followeth: 3d June.

85. " That the assurances of support and protection he had received " from the grandfather of his present Majesty, and repeatedly from his " Majesty himself and the Company, had given him the greatest con- " fidence that his rights and honor would have been preserved invio- " late; but the apprehensions under which he laboured, from Lord Pigot's " unjust use of his power, had arrived at so dangerous a height, that he " was obliged to apply to him, Sir Edward Hughes, for immediate in- " terference in his support. That Lord Pigot, not content with the low " and disgraceful state to which he had reduced his authority, by the mea- " sures which he executed at Tanjore, had lately threatened to subject " him to the most personal disgrace, by declaring in his Durbar, in a " most determined and threatened tone of voice, that he would place an " European guard upon his, the Nabob's house, to keep him a prisoner. " That the cause of this outrage was his having written Lord Pigot a Let- " ter on the 26th May, representing the injustice he had done him, by " ordering a military force to march into the Ramnaut country, to deprive " him of some districts there, and put the Rajah of Tanjore in possession " of them. That no oppression could be equal to the depriving a man of

" his right. That as Lord Pigot on a former occasion had ordered people " to enter his, the Nabob's, gardens in the middle of the night, pre- " tending he had information some people were ordered to be ill-treated " there, so he was under the greatest alarm lest Lord Pigot would pro- " ceed to execute in a passion what he had threatened; and therefore, as " Sir Edward Hughes was the servant of the King and Nation, who were " his protectors, as he was sent here for the support of his Sovereign's " honor, and the interest of the Company, so he called upon him, by every " duty which he owed to justice and his high station, to write immediately " to the Board, that such measures might be taken, as to secure his person " and family against Lord Pigot's threats and violence. That such was " the justice of his cause, that he was confident the Company would order " him full redress for the injuries which had been done to his Govern- " ment and people by Lord Pigot's conduct at Tanjore; but who was to " support him against those he then threatened, unless Sir Edward Hughes " would represent to the Council his situation; for that, by the established " custom, he could not apply to the Council but through the Governor, " and that the complaints were of the Governor himself."

86. Whereupon an answer was immediately wrote to Sir Edward Hughes to the following effect: those parts which are within inverted Commas being the explanation his Lordship gave us at the time.

87. That " our President assured us the Nabob had totally misunder- " stood him, he never having had a thought of placing a guard over him, " although he feared, and expressed those fears to the Nabob, that the en- " couragement his Highness gave to European visitors, and the impedi- " ments to public business, arising from the intrigues carried on by them " at the Durbar, would lay him under a necessity to place a guard to bring " such persons to him, that he might be acquainted with the nature of their " business."

88. We concluded this would be sufficient to satisfy him the person of the Nabob was in perfect security, our President declaring " no wanton " indignity to his Highness ever was intended, or ever would be com- " mitted by him, although his ears could never be shut to the complaints " of the distressed," and we assuring him that no such indignity to the Nabob should ever be countenanced by us, who were entrusted with the management of your affairs here.

89. The

89. The same day Sir Edward Hughes favoured us with an answer, acquainting us, that in order to satisfy the Nabob's mind on the subject of his Highness's application to him as the King's servant, he had immediately sent him a copy of his Letter and our reply, which he thought could not fail to produce the desired effect.

90. On the 10th June we received a Letter from the Governor General and Council of Bengal, requiring copies of our Proceedings relative to Tanjore, and signifying to us at the same time, that they were the more desirous of receiving such materials, as they were informed an officer, at the head of the Company's troops, had been sent to Arialoor, which place they understood was situated without the boundary of the kingdom of Tanjore, to seize upon one or more of the Nabob's officers, and had carried him or them with their papers to Tanjore.

91. That this act required an *explanation*. If it was necessary, in order to carry your instructions into execution, we would be justified by your instructions; but that this transaction, so far as they were yet acquainted with it, appeared to them a violation of the independent rights of the Nabob of the Carnatic, in which character Mahomed Ally Khan was acknowledged by the Treaty of Paris.

92. To this Letter we replied, that Lord Pigot acquainted us, " As " he had passed through the Tanjore country, he found the proper " officers, with all their accounts, had removed by the Nabob's orders " from the villages; and was soon informed that every part of the " country was in the same situation. That every means had been taken to " throw difficulties in his way in the execution of the Company's orders, " and to distress the country and its inhabitants. That without the " assistance of the Dobbeer, (the principal officer of the Nabob who was " seized) and his accounts, it would have been impossible for the " Rajah to have obtained any knowledge of the Revenues, or indeed to " have been properly placed in the management of his country; this man " having been first Minister, and in fact Governor of the Tanjore " country for fifty years past. That after Tanjore was taken, he told " the Nabob's son, who commanded there for his father, that he would " not desert his master in his misfortunes, and refused to act until he " carried him to the Rajah, and desired the Rajah to lay his commands " upon him. That on his (Lord Pigot's) proceeding for Tanjore, the " Nabob ordered the Dobbeer to be sent out of the Tanjore country " with all the public accounts. That the Dobbeer had retarded his " his journey by various pretences, and sent a message to the Rajah, de-

" firing he might be conducted to Tanjore; the troop which attended
" Lord Pigot was therefore sent to escort him; but when the troop ar-
" rived at the place whence the message to the Rajah had been sent, they
" found the Dobbeer had been conveyed from thence to Arialoor, whi-
" ther the commanding officer of the troop followed, and escorted him
" to Tanjore. That Lord Pigot had wrote to the Nabob, " If he would
" please to order the Amuldars and other officers to return with their
" accounts to the Dobbeer at Tanjore, justice might be done to every
" man, and the country, in a proper and equitable manner;" which he
" however had not thought proper to comply with."

93. That we never would lose sight of the treaty of Paris; but that we could not believe that treaty could be construed to obstruct any proper measures which might be necessary for the Company's security, or the safety of the Carnatic.

94. Our Proceedings being voluminous, it was out of our power to have them copied in time to accompany this Letter; they were however afterwards transmitted to them, together with every paper that could be of assistance to them in forming their judgment.

95. The Resolutions the Governor-General and Council of Bengal came to, on taking this subject into consideration, as well as the directions to us in consequence, will be fully treated of in the latter part of this address.

96. It is however necessary to remark, that on application to Mr. Benfield and Mr. De Souza, two gentlemen who were well qualified, from their extensive dealings in the Tanjore country, to inform us, we found that the village accounts were still in the respective villages in that country, although Lord Pigot had repeatedly declared they were carried out of it by the express orders of the Nabob.

97. On the 17th of June, Mr. Stratton, Sir Robert Fletcher, Messieurs Brooke, Floyer, Palmer, Jourdan, and Mackay, delivered in a joint Minute on the subject of our proceedings relative to Tanjore.

98. Mr. Jourdan gave in a separate one likewise on the same day, containing a sketch of what, he was of opinion, might be effected for the security and advantage of the Company, the Nabob, and the Rajah. To these Minutes we beg you will be referred.

99. At the fame Meeting that thefe Minutes were delivered in, Lord Pigot moved the following Queftions: " That it was the opinion of the " Board, the Letter from the Nabob to Sir Edward Hughes was written " purpofely to create animofity between the Members of this Govern- " ment."

100. This was carried in the affirmative by Lord Pigot's cafting voice.

101. The Members againft it were Meffieurs Mackay, Jourdan, Palmer, Floyer, Sir Robert Fletcher, and Mr. Stratton.

102. Lord Pigot then continued: " After fuch a Letter as that written " by the Nabob to Sir Edward Hughes, and after the fentiments he " (Lord Pigot) expreffed in reply to Sir Edward Hughes, as well as " what paffed in debate upon the fubject, he did hope the impropriety, " nay indecency, of vifiting the Nabob under fuch circumftances, would " ftrike every Member of the Council; and therefore, agreeably to the " ftanding orders of the Company, recommended, that no Member of the " Council fhould henceforth vifit, or correfpond by writing, or by mef- " fage, with the Nabob or either of his fons; and the more particularly " fo, as he was informed the Nabob had been made acquainted with the " late proceedings of the Board; and he thought it very improper any " Member of the Council fhould be liable to the flighteft fufpicion of " divulging to the Nabob the proceedings of Government."

103. This Queftion was likewife carried in the affirmative by Lord Pigot's cafting Vote.

104. Thofe Members who were againft it, Meffieurs Mackay, Jourdan, Palmer, Floyer, and Sir Robert Fletcher, arguing, that the Court of Directors did not mean the Nabob fhould be prevented from feeing any perfon whatever, much lefs Members of this Government; that thofe orders were only to be underftood, that all correfpondence with the Nabob, or other country powers, *or their affairs*, fhould be carried on in the name of the Prefident.

105. That making an order, that Members of the Council fhould not vifit the Nabob, would be extremely improper, and more efpecially at a time when accufations from the Nabob againft Lord Pigot were laying before the Board; that fuch a Motion implied ftrong fufpicions of Members of Government; and that the Nabob having expreffed ftrong ap-

 prehenfions

prehensions for his own personal safety, such apprehensions would naturally be increased by such an order.

106. Lord Pigot then represented to the Board many difficulties that attended the constant residence of the Nabob within the Company's bounds, and moved, "As he was desirous to avoid every occasion of "giving disgust to the Nabob, and as circumstances *would* occur daily "to increase his discontent whilst he remained here, that it be recom-"mended to the Nabob to reside at Arcot, as the most effectual method "of preventing misunderstandings."

107. This Motion made by Lord Pigot met, as you will naturally conceive, with strong opposition, and, upon being put to the vote, was carried in the negative by a Majority of Seven to Five.

108. The Majority who were against it argued, that the inconveniences which would arise from it were infinite, without there being the appearance of the least possible advantage to the Company's affairs. That in case of refusal compulsatory measures could not be used towards the Nabob, who had resided here so many years. That from such a step it must appear, not only to the Nabob, but to the whole world, that in consequence of the late unhappy misunderstandings between him and Lord Pigot, we had become distrustful of his friendship, that we were also distrustful of one another, and that we were inclined to offer indignity to his person, whenever he should think it advisable to differ in opinion upon any matter which might concern himself or Government; and that it would tend to disgust him against the Company's Government, and help to alienate that strong friendship and alliance which had so happily subsisted between the Company and his Highness.

109. Further reasons are adduced in support of this opinion, in Consultation 24th June, when several Minutes and Dissents were entered, relative to the Question on which it was founded, as also to the preceding ones moved the same day by his Lordship, as before mentioned, to which we request your particular attention.

110. Mr. Stratton, Sir Robert Fletcher, Messieurs Brooke, Palmer, Jourdan, and Mackay, likewise gave in a Minute on the same day, remarking, that "Lord Pigot having been pleased, in his reply to the "complaints laid before the Board by Sir Edward Hughes, to acknow-"ledge first, that of having threatened to place a guard near the Nabob's "person, and secondly, that of having ordered a party of Seapoys to

"march

" march in the night to St. Thomé for another particular purpose, it " became a duty incumbent on them to give their opinions upon those " points, lest their silence should pass for an applied approbation, and " on that approbation *a precedent might* afterwards be founded and " pleaded in similar cases." They then proceed to give their sentiments on those points, to which we beg you will be referred.

111. After this Minute your Honors will perceive the following Question moved by Mr. Mackay:

112. " As the Resolution on the Nabob's Letter to Sir Edward " Hughes was carried by the President's casting Vote, though, in Mr. " Mackay's opinion, a party concerned, and though the opinion of one " of the Members for that Question (Mr. Brooke) appeared doubtful, " Mr. Mackay moved, that the Resolution be rescinded."

113. Which Question was followed by Sir Robert Fletcher's representing to the Board, " That he had had the Records examined, and " could find no such standing order of the Company as was quoted by " Lord Pigot, and upon which he imagined *some* of the Members of " the Board were induced to vote for his Lordship's second Motion. " Sir Robert Fletcher further observed, That upon considering attentively the words in which that Motion was conceived, he found that " Members of the Board might be thought by some (though innocently) " to offend against the Resolution which passed upon that Motion, " merely because they did not, and in his opinion could not, shut their " doors in the faces of the Nabob and his sons when they happened to drop " in of an evening on a visit; and as for himself, he repeated, that there " were frequent complaints made to him from the out-garrisons of disputes between the officers under his command and the Nabob's officers, " and against some of the Company's officers in the Nabob's service, upon " points of duty; that these, in consequence of a message from the Commander in Chief to the Nabob, or to one of his sons, or a message " from one of them to the Commander in Chief, were in general amicably settled by him."

114. For all these reasons, Sir Robert Fletcher hopes the impropriety of the Resolution on Lord Pigot's second Motion, viz. " That no Member of Council do henceforth visit, or correspond by writing, or by " message, with the Nabob or either of his sons," would strike every Member of the Board, and therefore moved, " That that Resolution " should be rescinded."

115. As Mr. Dawſon had been preſent when the above-mentioned Queſtions, moved by Lord Pigot, were reſolved in the affirmative, it was agreed, at the deſire of Lord Pigot, to ſummon Mr. Dawſon, who had taken his final leave of the Board in order to proceed to Europe, to attend the next Council, when the foregoing Motions of Mr. Mackay and Sir Robert Fletcher ſhould be taken into conſideration.

116. In the mean time Mr. Dalrymple gave in a Minute on the proceedings relative to Tanjore, entered in Conſultation 1ſt July.

117. On the 8th July Sir Robert Fletcher deſired that his Motion for reſcinding the Reſolution of the 17th June, on Lord Pigot's ſecond Queſtion, relative to Members of the Council not viſiting or receiving meſſages from the Nabob or either of his ſons, might be taken into conſideration.

118. Lord Pigot then obſerved, that the Reſolution of Council the 17th June, that Members of the Board ſhould not viſit, or receive meſſages from the Nabob or his ſons, was grounded on the reaſons which were given in his Minute preceding that Motion.

119. That it was true he had, at the deſire of Mr. Brooke, given his conſent to the reconſideration of the Reſolution of the 29th May, on the Nabob and Mr. Benfield's claims on the Tanjore country, becauſe that private property was then concerned; but as no ſuch matter was affected by the Reſolution of the 17th June, and becauſe the reſcinding ſuch Reſolution would only increaſe the difficulties he had found in conducting the buſineſs of the Company with the Nabob, he declared he never would *give his conſent* that the Queſtion moved by Sir Robert Fletcher *ſhould be put*. He at the ſame time obſerved, that he was certain of acting on that occaſion with perfect conſiſtency. That during the many years he had been in the ſervice, he had always known the buſineſs of the Board originate with the Preſident, who was undoubtedly the propereſt perſon to lay before them ſuch ſubjects as required their conſideration.

120. Lord Pigot *refuſing in this manner to put the Queſtion* propoſed by Sir Robert Fletcher for reſcinding the Reſolution paſſed on his Lordſhip's ſecond Motion 17th June, the Majority thought it incumbent on them to record their opinions on the occaſion; in every reſpect diſapproving of Lord Pigot's conduct, and declaring, "That his Lordſhip ought not to refuſe "putting the Queſtion, and that the Reſolution ſhould be reſcinded."

121. Joint

121. Joint and ſeparate Minutes were entered by them on the occaſion, to which we beg you will be referred.

122. Lord Pigot then declared, " That, from the conſtitution of the " ſervice, he was well convinced no perſon but himſelf *could agitate a* " *Queſtion at the Board.* That he had ever known that *right veſted ſolely* " in the Preſident, who was always ſuppoſed the beſt judge of what " Queſtions were or were not fit for the benefit of the Company's affairs, " and who, if a Queſtion ſhould be propoſed which to him ſhould " appear productive of bad conſequences, had *an undoubted right to* " *prevent that Queſtion's being put.*"

123. This was on the 8th of July; on the 9th we, the Members of the preſent Government, gave in the following Minute:

124. " The Preſident, Lord Pigot, having at two former Conſultations " aſſerted a *right to adjourn* the Council, contrary to the opinion of the " Majority of the Board, having in the civil department *refuſed to put* a " previous Queſtion (which was moved) although deſired by many of " the Board, who had not had time to conſider of the propoſition laid " before them, having at the laſt Meeting *refuſed* to put a Queſtion " regularly moved for reſcinding a former Reſolution of Council, and " having aſſerted, that *a reſolution of the Majority of the Board could not be* " *carried into execution without his concurrence*, in the latter of which he " was ſupported by Mr. Dalrymple; we thought it incumbent upon us " to expreſs the aſtoniſhment as well as concern we felt at hearing ſuch " doctrines, to declare in the ſtrongeſt terms, that ſuch claims were incompatible with the rights of the other Members of this Government, and " that many dangerous conſequences might enſue from the admiſſion of " ſuch unconſtitutional, and, we were ſorry to add, arbitrary principles. " We knew that the Government was veſted in a Majority of the Board, " and that that Majority might exiſt whether the Preſident were of it or " not. Duty to our Maſters and to our country, regard to thoſe who were " placed under this Government, and our own honor, required that we " ſhould never give up any of the rights intruſted to us by the conſtitution. We know our rights, but we ſincerely hoped never to be " driven to the painful neceſſity of exerting them; and on that occaſion " we hoped it would ſuffice, that the opinions of the Majority of the " Board being for reſcinding the Reſolution upon the ſecond Motion of " Lord Pigot the 17th June, that the ſame was legally, though not in " the uſual form, reſcinded."

125. Mr. Dalrymple then thought it was a proper occasion to observe, "That from a careful perusal of the Company's Commission of Government, he found, that the Council were appointed the better to enable the Governor to manage the affairs of the Company, that he therefore could not think the Council were, either by the letter or spirit of that Commission, intended to manage the Company's affairs without the Governor."

126. On the 25th June, a Letter was laid before the Board by Brigadier-General Sir Robert Fletcher, addressed to him by Colonel Stuart, wherein Colonel Stuart submits it to the consideration of the Commander in Chief, if it were not proper, for the reasons he assigns, that the Board would be pleased to appoint him to the command of the fort and garrison of Tanjore.

127. No resolution was come to on that day, the Letter was ordered to lie upon the table for consideration.

128. The 9th of July, Sir Robert Fletcher, for the reasons assigned in Colonel Stuart's Letter, and because he wished to have his sentiments upon the state of the fort and country of Tanjore, with respect to their defence, particularly as it was rumoured armaments were fitted out from France, recommended that Colonel Stuart should be appointed to the command of Tanjore.

129. Colonel Stuart was accordingly appointed, though Lord Pigot, and Messieurs Russell, Dalrymple, and Stone, opposed it to the utmost of their power.

130. A draught of instructions to Colonel Stuart, in consequence of his appointment, was laid before the Board by the Commander in Chief the 30th July, which instructions, though not disapproved in any respect by Lord Pigot or any other Member, were ordered to lie for consideration, and for his Lordship to make any additions which he might think necessary.

131. Although nominated the 9th July, it was not until the 1st August that Colonel Stuart was officially acquainted therewith, and ordered to hold himself in readiness to proceed to Tanjore.

132. Sir Robert Fletcher not being able to attend Council from indisposition, enclosed to the Secretary 19th August a paper of fresh in-

ftructions for Colonel Stuart, which he defired might be laid before the Board for their confideration, his Lordfhip having kept the former draught.

133. They were on that day accordingly laid before us, when Lord Pigot remarked, that " He had frequently repeated to the Board his " earneft wifh that they would permit Mr. Ruffell to proceed to Tanjore, if it were even for a few days; that he was fo fully convinced " of the neceffity of that meafure, the Rajah and the country being in " the greateft diftrefs, that he was forced in the ftrongeft terms to " urge his former defire, that Mr. Ruffell might have their permiffion to " go in the manner he before recommended to them. This he was in " hopes the Board would acquiefce in, and the more fo, as he had at a " former Confultation declared, *he never could give his confent* to Colonel " Stuart's going to Tanjore, until the Board fhould have likewife " refolved, that Mr. Ruffell fhould proceed thither according to his " appointment." 19th Auguft.

134. The fenfe of the Board was then taken upon the above, when a majority of fix to four were againft Mr. Ruffell's going to Tanjore, becaufe he was appointed by the Company a Member of the Committee of Circuit, and becaufe this matter had been ftrenuoufly agitated in the civil department, when a Refolution paffed, that he and Mr. Dalrymple fhould fet off on that fervice the 31ft Auguft.

135. Whereupon the draught of inftructions being read, Lord Pigot obferved, that " Having repeatedly recommended to the Board the pro- " priety, not to fay neceffity, of Mr. Ruffell's going to Tanjore, he " then declared, *he never would give his fanction* to any inftructions to " Colonel Stuart until that meafure was adopted."

136. Mr. Floyer then defired the queftion might be put to the Board, to take into confideration the above draught of inftructions to Colonel Stuart.

137. Lord Pigot however oppofed it, and declared, " For the " reafons he had before affigned, that *he would not put the queftion at " that time.*"

138. Lord Pigot having in this manner *refufed to put the queftion* moved by Mr. Floyer, and it being a matter of the greateft confequence to be determined, whether the Prefident had a right *to refufe* putting

 any

any question proposed, the consideration of it was deferred until the next day.

20th August. 139. Being assembled the next morning in consequence of adjournment, Mr. Mackay recorded an opinion to the following effect: "That the "President (Lord Pigot) having refused to put the question moved by "Mr. Floyer, viz. to take into consideration the draught of instructions "to Colonel Stuart, he thought it necessary to enter his opinion, that "the Board should then proceed to take into consideration the said "instructions."

140. Mr. Jourdan subscribed to this opinion.

141. Lord Pigot then declared, "That having *determined not to give* "*his consent* to Colonel Stuart's going to Tanjore, until Mr. Russell "should be ordered to proceed thither likewise, *he would not allow the* "*matter to be then agitated at the Board.*"

142. Upon which Lord Pigot was requested by Mr. Stratton in the most earnest manner to put the question, as it was perfectly consistent with the constitution and rules of the service; but this he still declined, upon the same principles that he had before advanced.

143. Finding his Lordship thus obstinate in his refusal *to put the question*, we were under the necessity, as the only alternative left us, to record our opinions separately approving of the instructions.

144. The instructions were accordingly approved by a Majority of the Board, and transcribed fair for signing, together with a Letter to Lieutenant-Colonel Harper, directing him to deliver over the command of Tanjore to Colonel Stuart on his arrival there.

145. On these Letters being presented to Lord Pigot to be signed, he declared, that "Conformably to what he had before said, he would "not put his name to them. That having made use of every argu- "ment in his power to dissuade the Majority of the Council from "attempting to carry this measure into execution *without his concurrence*, "so he thought it his duty to the Company, his friendship to the dif- "ferent Members, and his regard to the good order and government of "the Settlement, to desire that they would not proceed further therein; "and to declare, as his opinion, that *without his name* to those orders, "they were not the *Act of Government*, and men executing such orders

6 "might

"might be liable to difficulties, which he wished the different Members "to be as sensible of as himself."

146. The same moderation and forbearance which we had hitherto observed prevailed on us in this instance to adjourn the Council.

147. Two days after, the Board being assembled, we gave in a Minute to the following purport: "That Lord Pigot having *refused*, in "Consultation 19th August, *to put the question* for taking into consideration the instructions to Colonel Stuart, we declared, that we considered such *refusal* as inconsistent with the rules of the service, and "*tending* to *subvert* the *Constitution*; but unwilling to proceed in haste on "a matter of so much importance, that we had moved the adjournment "of Council till the next day, when we still found his Lordship asserting "doctrines destructive of the principles of the constitution. That we "could not but express our astonishment at such extraordinary declarations as he then made. We denied that the *concurrence* of the President was necessary to constitute an *Act* of *Government*; and we declared "his *conduct* to be *unconstitutional* and *illegal*. We had not a doubt that "the Minority of the Board were *obliged* to assist in carrying *into execution* the orders of the Majority, and that the President was as much "*bound* by those orders, as any other Member of the Board. But as "he had thought proper, contrary to the established rules of the service, "to *declare positively* he *would not sign* the instructions to Colonel Stuart, "though those instructions had been *approved* by a Majority of the Board, "and *thereby* became an Act of Government; yet, willing to give further time for the consideration of so weighty a matter, he had moved "the adjournment of Council. Previous however to the prosecution "of the business in question, as a *refusal to put questions* would retard, if "not *totally stop the execution* of every measure not conformable to his "Lordship's sentiments, we declared we were of opinion, that in "any case of the President's *refusal* to put a question proposed by any "Member, it was the duty of the secretary to put *that* question, "beginning first with the youngest Member, and the duty of every "Member of Council to *answer* such question; and that a *refusal* to "*answer* should be deemed a *breach of the Company's* standing orders. 22d August.

148. And to elucidate the points in question, we annexed extracts from Mr. Vansittart's narration, wherein that gentleman, who was well acquainted with the constitution of your service, expressly declares, that he signed instructions when Governor of Bengal which he disapproved, acting therein conformably to the established rule of the service, which

is,

is, " That every Member shall sign the public orders and records, " entering his dissent when he differs in opinion from the Majority;" and that the " Resolutions of the Majority were to be deemed the Reso- " lutions of the Board, and to be signed by the whole Board." Narrative, vol. ii. p. 233; vol. iii. p. 137. Mr. Floyer likewise stated to us a circumstance immediately in point, when Mr. Cartier, the then Governor of Bengal, and Mr. Russell and himself, met with the pointed resentment of the Court of Directors for their conduct in opposition to a Majority of the Council. The Minutes given in by Mr. Floyer on this occasion make a number in the packet, and merit your particular attention.

149. Lord Pigot then addressed himself to us in the following words:

150. " The Majority having proceeded so far on Tuesday last, as to " bring the instructions to Colonel Stuart, and the Letter to Lieutenant- " Colonel Harper, to the point of signing, and he, the President, having " refused to put his name thereto, recommending that the gentlemen of " the Majority would please to consider whether it were not prudent in " them to proceed no further; and remarking, at the same time, what " difficulties men were liable to executing such orders, as in his opinion " were not an Act of Government, without his name being affixed to " them. And having had the satisfaction then to find, that the several " Members wished to give this matter full consideration, by desiring an " adjournment of two days, and receiving now the still greater satisfaction " of finding no gentleman urge the prosecution thereof, he, the Pre- " sident, hopes that he may be so fortunate as to meet the Board " inclined to let this matter rest until the pleasure of their Honorable " Masters is known, and therefore recommends that they will do so. " The President further adds, that it seems to him quite necessary that " something decisive should make its appearance before our Honorable " Masters, that they may not, on the arrival of the Grenville, remain " with fears that this is a sore only patched up, ready to break out afresh " to the great detriment and bad government of their affairs."

151. Having already given our opinion, approving of the instructions to Colonel Stuart, and reflecting on the tendency of the arguments and declarations made by his Lordship in support of his having the power *to put a negative* upon all acts of the Majority he did not approve, and that, by virtue of such negative, no measure of the Majority of the Board could be deemed an Act of Government, and consequently could not be carried into execution; we resolved, if his Lordship should still persist in his

his refusal to sign the instructions, that they should be signed by the Secretary by order of the Council.

152. Having thus given our opinion, we called on Lord Pigot in a joint Minute which we all signed, to direct the Secretary to sign the Letters to Colonel Stuart and Lieutenant-Colonel Harper; and on his refusing to give such directions, we declared we looked upon ourselves, being a Majority, as authorized to order him to sign them, and accordingly wrote the following Letter:

To Mr. Secretary Sulivan.

SIR,

" WE, the Majority of the Board, having approved of the instructions
" to Colonel Stuart and the Letter to Lieutenant-Colonel Harper, and
" the President not only having refused to sign them himself, but also
" refused to order you to do it, we are reduced to the disagreeable
" necessity of directing you to sign the said Instructions and Letter *by*
" *Order of Council*, and send them to Colonel Stuart.

Fort St. George,
22d August 1776.

(Signed) GEORGE STRATTON,
HENRY BROOKE.

153. As soon as this Letter was signed by Mr. Stratton and Mr. Brooke, Lord Pigot snatched it out of the hand of the latter, as he was passing it round to the other Members of the Majority for their signatures, and at the same instant, taking a paper out of his pocket, observed to the Board, " That having frequently entreated them not to carry this matter
" further, but to wait the determination of the Court of Directors, he
" would *now stop it where it was*; and then read the contents of the
" paper as followeth:"

154. " I charge George Stratton and Henry Brooke, Esquires, of
" being guilty of an act subversive of the authority of Government, and
" tending to introduce anarchy, in the signing orders to the Secretary
" to give instructions to Colonel Stuart, which have not been approved
" and passed by the President and Council."

155. Mr. Stratton and Mr. Brooke thereupon thought it necessary to record, that they would not admit of the foregoing being a *charge*, as it

was for their ſigning a paper agreed upon by the Majority of the Board, as expreſſed by Meſſieurs Stratton, Brooke, Floyer, Palmer, Jourdan, and Mackay, who were on the point of ſigning the order, had they not been prevented by Lord Pigot's ſnatching the paper in the manner above-mentioned.

156. As the Minute given in by Lord Pigot contained, as he expreſſed himſelf, a charge of the higheſt nature againſt Meſſieurs Stratton and Brooke, he recommended, that thoſe gentlemen ſhould be ordered to withdraw, that their conduct might be taken into conſideration.

157. Mr. Jourdan moved, and Mr. Mackay ſeconded the Motion, that the Board ſhould adjourn till the next morning at ten o'clock.

158. This Motion however was not attended to by Lord Pigot, who, as ſoon as it had been written down by the Secretary, moved that the Board ſhould come to the following Reſolution:

159. "Reſolved, That George Stratton and Henry Brooke, Eſquires, " be now ſuſpended from the Company's ſervice until the Company's " pleaſure ſhall be known."

Mr. Mackay, againſt the reſolution.
Mr. Jourdan, againſt the reſolution.
Mr. Palmer, againſt the reſolution.
Mr. Stone, for the reſolution.
Mr. Floyer, againſt the reſolution.
Mr. Dalrymple, for the reſolution.
Mr. Ruſſell, for the reſolution.

160. The Secretary was here ordered by Lord Pigot " To take no " vote either from Mr. Brooke or Mr. Stratton on the queſtion before " the Board, as the ſtanding orders of the Company direct, that no Mem- " ber ſhall ſit in Council when a charge is delivered in againſt him."

The Preſident, Lord Pigot, for the Reſolution.

And as, on caſting up the votes, it appeared they were equal four to four, the Preſident deſired that it might be recorded, that, beſides his vote, he gave his caſting voice for the Reſolution.

161. It was carried accordingly *for* the Reſolution by Lord Pigot's caſting voice.

162. It

162. It is however here neceſſary to remark to your Honors, that the reaſon of our giving any vote whatſoever on ſo extraordinary a queſtion, proceeded from our conviction, that if we had refuſed to vote, Lord Pigot would have contented himſelf with the votes of his three friends and his own, and have deemed them ſufficient to carry this illegal attempt to ſuſpend Meſſieurs Stratton and Brooke; and we were poſitive in point of legality, by voting upon the queſtion we ſhould have fruſtrated ſo daring an attempt to ſuſpend thoſe two gentlemen upon this ground, that if the accuſed were prevented voting, the admiſſion of the accuſer's vote, upon the ſame principle, could not poſſibly have been admitted.

163. Mr. Stratton and Mr. Brooke delivered in Minutes on the occaſion againſt the Reſolution; but the Secretary being ordered by his Lordſhip not to take either the vote of Mr. Stratton or of Mr. Brooke, thoſe Minutes were omitted in the Conſultation in conſequence of poſitive directions from his Lordſhip.

164. A proteſt againſt the illegality of the proceedings, which thoſe gentlemen wrote at the time, was likewiſe omitted by his Lordſhip's orders, who with his own hand ſcratched out the Minutes made by the Secretary in conſequence in the draught of the Conſultation of that day.

165. Meſſieurs Mackay, Jourdan, Palmer, and Floyer ſolemnly proteſted againſt Lord Pigot, and thoſe gentlemen who were for the Reſolution, declaring the meaſures to be the moſt arbitrary ever known at a Board under an Engliſh Government, and ſolely intended *in an illegal manner to get rid* of the votes of thoſe gentlemen, that his Lordſhip might form a Majority for himſelf.

166. His Lordſhip however then adjourned the Council until the next morning at eleven o'clock, although we kept our ſeats, and declared to his Lordſhip unanimouſly, that the proceedings againſt Meſſieurs Brooke and Stratton were ſo *pointedly illegal and unjuſt*, that we ſhould, notwithſtanding his attempt to ſuſpend them, conſider them as Members of the Council in like manner as ourſelves.

167. On the afternoon of the 22d Auguſt, the day on which this happened, Lord Pigot directed the Secretary to ſend round a *ſpecial ſummons* for the Members of the Board to aſſemble in Council the next morning.

168. In

168. In this summons however Mr. Stratton and Mr. Brooke were not included, although the names of all the others were inserted, as well as that of Mr. Richard Lathom, Chief of Cuddalore, who had been at the Presidency for several days without ever having been desired to attend the Board.

169. In this distracted state of the Government, when Lord Pigot was by a most unparalleled act, attempting to usurp all our constitutional rights, although we had observed the utmost moderation to avoid coming to extremities, we thought it expedient to write a Letter of protest to his Lordship and the other gentlemen, who had voted for the suspension of Messieurs Stratton and Brooke.

23d August. 170. We informed them, "That we, whose names were underwritten, "being of Council, and constituting a Majority thereof, taking into our "most serious consideration the proceedings upon record at the two last "meetings, and more particularly the unexampled outrage offered to the "constitution, and arbitrary behaviour towards two of our number, by "an illegal attempt to suspend them, in order by a trick to gain a Ma-"jority, were of opinion, that the public safety was in danger by the "conduct of Lord Pigot, Messieurs Russell, Dalrymple, and Stone, "who had supported, and by every person who should continue to support "such measures, and we should hold them responsible for all the conse-"quences that might ensue. That we the Majority considered ourselves "as the only legal representatives of the Honorable Company under the "Presidency, and as such we had not a doubt but all the servants of the "Company would regard us. That for these reasons, and the evident "illegality of the summons to Council for that morning, in which were "omitted the names of Mr. George Stratton and Mr. Henry Brooke, "two legal Members of the Board, we could not, consistently with the "duty we owed to our Honorable Employers, attend the said summons."

171. We likewise judged it necessary to inform the Governor-General and Council of Bengal of the alarming state of your affairs under this Government, and accordingly addressed them a Letter on the subject, to which we beg you will be referred.

23d August. 172. This Letter was conveyed to him under cover of a packet transmitted to that Presidency by Commodore Sir Edward Hughes, who had informed us he would forward it to them in that manner.

173. By these measures it is evident his Lordship's views were, in an illegal and arbitrary manner, to secure a Majority, without which he knew his schemes could not be carried into execution. We found ourselves under the necessity either of passively giving up our own rights, and the known constitution of Government, *and of becoming accessaries in all the evil consequences which might ensue*, or by separating shew, by the Letter we sent by the hands of the Notary Public, that, as a Majority of the Council, we were resolved in this extremity to maintain the constitutional rights of the Company, and to signify to all the Company's servants and dependents that we required from them submission to our legal orders.

174. In consequence of this public act on our part, Lord Pigot proceeded immediately to *the violent measure* of ordering the Commander in Chief under arrest, and of issuing Letters of suspension to each of us, Messieurs Floyer, Palmer, Jourdan, and Mackay, who, with Messieurs Stratton and Brooke, composed the legal Majority of the Council.

175. At this time we had in full view, and under our most serious consideration, the critical situation which the public affairs might be brought into, by the violent and arbitrary proceedings of a President such as Lord Pigot, who, from his commission and local residence, was also Governor of the fort and garrison, if time and opportunity had been left him to influence the military in support of his illegal Government.

176. We also considered the very great probability that the remaining part of the army, not under the orders of Lord Pigot, perceiving the violence and injustice done to their Commander in chief, who was ordered in arrest for supporting the civil constitution of the Company, and well knowing that the army in general, as well as every impartial person in the Settlement, were fully convinced that a Resolution of the Majority of the Council was to them the only legal act of Government. We say therefore, that deliberating with anxious minds upon the chance of such a dreadful crisis, as that the fort and garrison of Fort St. George, with an arbitrary passionate man at their head, might possibly be separated from the rest of the Company's possessions on this Coast, and, that the Nabob of the Carnatic, who is the ally of the Crown of Great Britain and the Company, and who intrusts himself, his family and fortune, to the protection of the Fort, might by our passive delay be abandoned to the person whom he has reason to believe his bitterest enemy; and deliberating further on the many dangerous consequences which might result

and affect the safety of the State, if not the very existence of the Company on this Coast; we could not hesitate a moment to resume the executive powers of Government, in which we conceived ourselves warranted not only by the legal constitution of the Company, but also by the supreme law of necessity.

177. When we reflect on the very alarming and critical alternative to which the despotic violence of Lord Pigot had compelled us, that of submitting to an expulsion from your Government by a Minority of Members, and tamely surrendering ourselves to the dishonor, infidelity, and baseness of deserting our trust, giving up the Nabob of the Carnatic, the ally of his Majesty and the friend of the Company, to his inveterate and bitter enemy to be treated with disgrace, under which he had declared he could not nor would not survive; and giving up also perhaps the life of your Commander in Chief to an illegal and compulsory trial; or the alternative of attempting to rescue your Government at the risk of a convulsion: when we reflect on those alternatives, to the desperate choice of which we were left on the morning of the 24th of August, and when we now consider how happily the peace of the colony and the administration of your affairs have been extricated from dangers so imminent, we can never sufficiently approve the conduct of Colonel Stuart, who so ably and faithfully discharged his duty to you and your legal representatives upon so trying an occasion. Indeed we are at a loss which most to admire, his generous self-denial, in not accepting directly the command of the army from Lord Pigot, or the very masterly manner in which he executed our determination. Our Secretary, Mr. Sulivan, declares, that in the whole conversation which passed between Colonel Stuart and Lord Pigot and his Counsellors in the Council Room on the evening of the 23d about his accepting the command, that he never heard him come to a direct acceptance of it; on the contrary, that the conversation of Colonel Stuart was so exceedingly evasive as to cause him to remark the purport of it to Mr. Oakely, our Civil Secretary, a few minutes after Lord Pigot and Colonel Stuart had left the Council Chamber; Mr. Sulivan in particular recollects, that Colonel Stuart laid great stress on these words,— "It is true I have been passively Commander in Chief by your orders, "but I have yet executed no duty of the Commander in Chief." The singular address which he afterwards shewed in conducting his Lordship to arrest, was not only warranted by the occasion, but was absolutely necessary to the success of the undertaking. What was so necessary to the success of an undertaking, on which the peace of the colony and the Carnatic so apparently depended, cannot but reflect honor on the conduct of

of a soldier executing his orders. Lord Pigot was in that crisis dangerous to the State, and in actual opposition to the authority which constituted his powers; but whose orders he had superseded, and whose system he had violated, without even the pretext of connecting those measures with the supposed idea of your interest. We have directed Colonel Stuart to give us a faithful narrative of the manner in which he executed our orders, copy of which shall wait on your Honors a number in the packet, together with his Letter of the 24th August to Lord Pigot.

178. The orders we gave to Colonel Stuart were to the following effect: That uncertain to what further excess Lord Pigot might proceed unless timely prevented, we thought it our duty, if necessary, to arrest his person, and in consequence that we empowered him (Colonel Stuart) on whom, during the unhappy indisposition of Sir Robert Fletcher, we conferred the command of the army as well as of the garrison of Fort St. George, during the present danger, to take such measures as to him should appear proper to place the Fort, Garrison, and Fort-house, under our command, so that the public tranquillity might be restored, and the business of the Honorable Company carried on in the usual manner. That we further ordered and directed him, if he saw necessary, to arrest the person of Lord Pigot, or of any other person who should obstruct him in the execution of our orders; and that for these salutary purposes we directed all the Company's servants, civil or military, and all persons who lived under the protection of this Government, to give him every aid and assistance in their power.

179. In consequence of these our orders, Colonel Stuart arrested the person of Lord Pigot, and delivered him into the charge of Major Horne, commanding at St. Thomas's Mount, with positive directions that his Lordship should be treated with every mark of attention and respect. 24th August.

180. On the report of Colonel Stuart, that Lord Pigot was in arrest at the Mount, and that all the military officers in the fort had declared it to be their duty and resolution to obey all orders they might receive from us, the Majority of the Council, or the Majority for the time being, we immediately repaired to the Council Chamber in the Fort-house, and having assembled the military officers of the garrison, read to them our Proclamation on the occasion, when they unanimously confirmed to us the report of Colonel Stuart. A copy of the proclamation comes a number in the packet. Ibid.

181. The

181. The next morning likewise all the Company's servants, both civil and military, and the inhabitants, being assembled at the Council Chamber, the Proclamation was read to them, and copies of it issued to all the subordinacies and out-garrisons.

182. Taking into consideration the very illegal and unconstitutional conduct observed by Messieurs Russell, Dalrymple, and Stone, in the support they gave to every measure of Lord Pigot, but particularly in the attempt to expel us, the Majority of the Board, which convinced us no dependence could be placed in them, and considering likewise how much the Company had suffered through the conduct they had pursued, we found ourselves reduced to the necessity of suspending them from your service.

183. Mr. Richard Lathom likewise having concurred in opinion with Lord Pigot, Messieurs Russell, Dalrymple, and Stone, for the illegal attempt to suspend Messieurs Floyer, Palmer, Jourdan, and Mackay, and in the Resolution of ordering Brigadier-General Sir Robert Fletcher under arrest, and thereby admitting the legality of the supposed suspensions of Messieurs Stratton and Brooke on the 22d August, as well as his
25th August. having concurred in the other measures recited in the examination of Mr. Secretary Sulivan, we unanimously resolved to suspend him also from the service of the Company until your pleasure should be known.

27th August. 184. Having received information from Colonel Stuart, that he had reason to apprehend there was some tampering with the troops stationed at St. Thomas's Mount by persons in the interest of Lord Pigot and his associates, we could not but be anxious for the consequences which might ensue; taking therefore into our most serious consideration the many evils that might arise from the violent dispositions manifested by Lord Pigot's associates since his removal to the Mount, their indefatigable pursuits in attempting to sow disaffection as well in the civil as the military servants of the Company within the fort, the attempt made by Mr. Claud Russell to stir up sedition amongst the troops in garrison, together with the apprehension expressed by Colonel Stuart, were circumstances which afforded too great cause of suspicion that Lord Pigot and others would persist in the measure of seducing the troops at the Mount, and that his Lordship's residence there might furnish the ready means of creating disturbances. The fortress of Chingleput, distant about thirty-six miles from Madrass, appearing in every respect a more eligible place for Lord Pigot's residence during his being under arrest, as well in point of the

the falubriety of that place, as in his being removed at fuch a diftance from the fort of Madrafs, as to render any attempts that might be made by his Lordfhip and friends for difturbing the public tranquillity much more difficult than it might be in his refidence at the Mount; we were therefore of opinion, that Lord Pigot fhould, as foon as poffible, be removed to Chingleput; and in order that his Lordfhip might meet with every poffible mark of refpect and attention, and for his better refidence there, we appointed a field-officer to the command of that garrifon.

185. Lieutenant-Colonel Edington, Adjutant-General, was accordingly employed to receive his Lordfhip from Major Horne at the Mount; his Lordfhip however peremptorily refufed going, and that in fuch a manner as will clearly evince you the violence of his Lordfhip's difpofition. Copies of the affidavits of Colonel Edington and Serjeant Shaw now wait on you numbers in the Packet for that purpofe.

186. We were extremely concerned to find, that in confequence of this Refolution a report fhould have been propagated by Lord Pigot and his friends, that he was to have been removed to Gingee; we accordingly took the earlieft opportunity of affuring him by Letter, that no fuch idea ever did or ever could occur to us. We likewife made him an offer of removing to any Settlement upon the coaft that he fhould give a preference to, where there was a Chief and Council, provided he would pledge his word of honor to remain in quietnefs within the bounds of fuch Settlement until your pleafure fhould be known concerning his Lordfhip's conduct and our's refpectively. That if his Lordfhip fhould be pleafed to confent to this propofal, we fhould order the beft houfe in fuch Settlement to be prepared for his reception, that every neceffary be furnifhed him at the Company's expenfe, and that every refpect and attention be paid to his perfon. We at the fame time thought it neceffary to add, that if his Lordfhip fhould prefer embarking for Europe on one of the Company's fhips, we would order him every accommodation in our power. 28th Auguft.

187. The information we had of the declarations made by Lord Pigot to the military, which, added to the very violent and irregular proceedings of Mr. Ruffell, who on the day of our refuming the Government had endeavoured to put the main guard of the garrifon under arms, and was by force brought from thence before the Council, where he publickly denied our authority; knowing moreover, by our experience, the violent temper of Lord Pigot, who, if at liberty, would run every rifk to recover the Government; thefe circumftances forced us, contrary to our private feelings, to ufe an expreffion to Major Horne, " As your laft refource,

 " in

" in any attempt to rescue Lord Pigot, his life must answer for it, and " this you are to signify to him;" which we imagined would deter Lord Pigot's friends and family from encouraging any attempts towards his rescue; however we lost no time to make Lord Pigot and his family easy on that subject, as was evident from our intention to remove his Lordship to Chingleput, and by our Letter to him of the 28th August; but in truth there could be no doubt in his Lordship's breast of the humane good feelings of Major Horne, to whom, *in terrorem*, this part of the order was given purposely to be communicated to Lord Pigot, only that he might prevent any attempts to rescue him; and we think it has had the effect we looked for.

188. The affidavits of Lieutenant-Colonel Edington and Serjeant Shaw gave us every reason to believe, that if Lord Pigot had it in his power, he would not only have raised a mutiny in the army, but put himself at the head of an armed party, and march with them to the Fort, though he fell in the attempt;—needed there any other argument for persons in our responsible situation to take every means possible, though at times with strong expressions, to prevent any attempts, however fruitless, to involve this Settlement in convulsion and civil war?

189. To the Letter above-mentioned, which we addressed to his Lordship, we have as yet received no reply, so that his Lordship's continuance at the Mount, in preference to any other of the Settlements of the Company on the Coast, or to embarking on board one of their ships for Europe, is a matter entirely of his own choice.

28th August. 190. On the same day that we wrote to Lord Pigot, we received a Letter from Sir Edward Hughes, informing us, that Lord Pigot had claimed the protection of the King's flag, and in consequence, that he required in his Majesty's name, that Major Horne should be ordered to give his Lordship safe conduct to his Majesty's ship the Salisbury.

26th August. 191. Previous to the receipt of this Letter, we had explained to Sir Edward Hughes, in the fullest manner, the situation that affairs were in, and the causes which had driven us to the necessity of putting Lord Pigot in arrest, as your Honors will be pleased to observe on reference to our Letter to Sir Edward of the 26th August.

4th September. 192. In consequence of the above requisition of Sir Edward Hughes, we informed him, that having taken his Letter into our most serious consideration, we thought it necessary, before we returned a precise and positive

poſitive anſwer, to requeſt he would be pleaſed to inform us, what ſecurity he could give us, who were intruſted with the intereſts and affairs of the Company under this Preſidency, and with the preſervation of the public peace, that the tranquillity of the Coaſt, ſo perfectly eſtabliſhed, ſhould not be endangered by our conſenting to the removal of Lord Pigot from under our own authority.

193. To this Sir Edward replied, that the requiſition and ſafe conduct for Lord Pigot to his ſhip being made by him in the name of the King, and as no terms could therefore be admitted on which to ground a compliance with that requiſition, it followed, that no other anſwer could be given by him, who was intruſted with the honor and dignity of his Majeſty's flag, to our queſtion, than a repetition of what he before required, and which he then again required of us in the King's name, that Major Horne ſhould be ordered to give Lord Pigot ſafe conduct to the Saliſbury, his Lordſhip having repeated his claim of protection from his Majeſty's flag. 6th September.

194. In reply to this Letter, we begged leave to obſerve to Sir Edward Hughes, that Lord Pigot having, as appeared from facts already publiſhed, by his illegal and arbitrary conduct ſubverted the conſtitution of the Company, and cauſed confuſion and diviſion in the Settlement, the maintenance of the Company's orders, as well as the neceſſity of public affairs, in our opinion, juſtified the ſteps which had been taken to prevent the further progreſs of ſuch proceedings. That the experience we had had of Lord Pigot's violent and impetuous diſpoſition (of which we gave ſtriking proofs in the affidavits of Lieutenant-Colonel Edington and Serjeant Shaw, read to Sir Edward at the Board, and of which he himſelf had ſo recent an inſtance in the Letter of complaint written to him by the Nabob the 3d June) obliged us to put ſuch reſtraints upon his Lordſhip's perſon as the public peace ſeemed to require; and from the ſame motives we were induced, in anſwer to his Letter, to requeſt he would inform us what ſecurity he could give, that the tranquillity of the Coaſt ſhould not be endangered, by our conſenting to the removal of Lord Pigot from under our own authority. That ſince he was pleaſed to decline giving to us any ſecurity whatſoever in conſequence of that requeſt, that we were under the neceſſity of acquainting him, that we could not, conſiſtently with the important truſt repoſed in us, comply with the requiſition he had again repeated, that Major Horne ſhould be ordered to give Lord Pigot ſafe conduct to his ſhip. That as loyal ſubjects to his Majeſty, and faithful ſervants to the Company, we ſhould always ſhew the greateſt veneration to the ſacred name of his Majeſty, and the utmoſt reſpect to the Britiſh flag, but that having no proof Ibid.

before us, that his Majesty empowered any of his officers to require the removal of any servant of the Company, in a similar situation with Lord Pigot, from under the authority of the Company's Government, we begged leave to add that as another reason why we would not comply with the requisition he had made.

9th September. 195. We received a final answer from Sir Edward Hughes, wherein he says, that he should have been disappointed to have been told we had any proofs before us, that his Majesty had empowered any of his officers to require the removal of any servant of the Company, in a similar situation with Lord Pigot, from under the authority of the Company's Government, as he believed the case to be unexampled. That as we thought we could not, consistently with the important trust reposed in us, comply with the requisition made by him in the name of his Majesty, a name by him deemed very high security, and which he had a power to use in national concerns of the utmost importance, and as he felt in his own mind that he had done his duty to his Majesty and to his country in making the requisition, he had only to add, that we had taken on ourselves any and all the ill consequences which might arise from the refusal.

196. Before we quit this subject, it may not be unnecessary to remark to your Honors, that having furnished Sir Edward Hughes, immediately after our resuming the executive powers of Government, with a copy of the proclamation, and extracts of our Consultations explaining the motives of our conduct, he addressed us a Letter in answer to one which accompanied those papers, wherein he says, " That being ordered by his Ma-" jesty to communicate confidentially with the Government of this " Presidency for the good of the common cause, and for the welfare " and interest of the Company, he should join in all measures tending " to those desirable ends, whenever we might find proper to call upon " him for assistance."

197. Having now given your Honors a complete and faithful narrative of our proceedings, we shall beg leave to make some few remarks thereon.

198. The facts here laid before you speak so strongly for themselves, and we have so much confidence in the justice and candor with which they will be examined, that we feel no pain about the event.

199. The

199. The conduct we have pursued, from the time these unhappy divisions first appeared, has been directed solely to your interest and advantage. Whilst forbearance and moderation were capable of stemming the violence which opposed us, we observed them to a degree bordering upon a mistaken lenity. We knew our own powers as a Majority of your Council were efficient. We might have crushed the first attempts that were made upon our constitutional rights, and perhaps it would have been better if we had done so; but wishing above all things to avoid extremities, we proceeded upon the plan of moderation we had adopted in the beginning, the only effect of which was to hasten those violent and illegal proceedings that soon after followed.

200. Your Honors will perceive, on reference to our Minutes, that Lord Pigot began early to maintain very extraordinary opinions concerning his authority as President of the Council; he declared that no Resolution of the Majority could pass into an act without his concurrence; that he would refuse to put questions regularly moved by any Member of the Board; that he would adjourn the Council when he pleased, though contrary to the opinion of the Majority; that he was at liberty to refuse signing any Letter agreed upon by a Majority, if he himself disapproved of it; that all business of the Board must originate with him, and nothing could be deemed an Act of Government without his concurrence.

201. We may safely venture to affirm, that none of these positions can be supported on any ground whatsoever. They are expressly contrary to the Commission of Government, to the standing orders of the Company, and to the universal practice of all your Presidencies. They tend separately and collectively to take away all authority from the Council, and to place it in the hands of the President only. No man *can prudently* be trusted with such unlimited power in the management of your affairs; want of capacity, integrity, or judgment, might involve them in ruin before any remedy could be applied.

202. But fortunately for the Company, the system of Government which they have established is founded on wiser principles, and laid down too clearly to be mistaken. The Commission of Government vests the supreme direction of the Company's affairs under this Presidency, subject to the restrictions of the late Act of Parliament, in a President and Council, or the major part of them. The Governor's separate commission of Governor and Commander in Chief of the Fort commands him to obey all orders he may receive from the Board. The standing orders of the Company are in these words: "Whatever shall be agreed on by the Majority

" ſhall be eſteemed the order by which each one is to act, and accordingly " every individual perſon, even the diſſenters themſelves, are to perform " their parts in proſecution thereof; and in ſo doing they do their duty, " and muſt not be blamed for the event." And the late Act of Parliament for eſtabliſhing certain regulations for the better management of the affairs of the Eaſt-India Company, as well in Europe as in India, expreſsly ſays, " And be it enacted by the authority aforeſaid, that in all caſes wherein " any difference of opinion ſhall ariſe upon any Queſtion propoſed in Con- " ſultation, the ſaid Governor-General and Council ſhall be bound and " concluded by the opinion and deciſion of the major part of thoſe " preſent.'

203. Your Honors may well ſuppoſe we were exceedingly alarmed at the doctrines inſiſted on by Lord Pigot in oppoſition to theſe orders, with which he was perfectly acquainted. We knew the violence of his temper, and were apprehenſive of the effect. Our conduct on this trying occaſion was moderate, yet we hope ſufficiently firm. We reſolved at all events to aſſert the conſtitutional rights of the Government. Lord Pigot on his part was obſtinately fixed to his purpoſe, and finding that all other efforts to overcome our reſolutions were vain, he proceeded, in direct violation of your orders, and of every principle of juſtice, to that moſt extraordinary act, by which he attempted to force Meſſieurs Stratton and Brooke from the Council.

204. The ſcheme was preconcerted, and the paper which he brought forth, and read as a charge againſt thoſe gentlemen, was prepared before the order to the Secretary was ſigned by any Member of the Board. We beg your particular attention to this part of the Proceedings. The act on which Lord Pigot founded what he terms a charge, was the act of a Majority of the Board, intended to give effect to a reſolution formally paſſed; every Member of the Majority therefore was equally concerned with Meſſieurs Stratton and Brooke, and Lord Pigot might with equal juſtice have read the ſame charge againſt them all.

205. Your Honors will be pleaſed to obſerve, that the order to the Secretary to ſign the inſtructions to Colonel Stuart was written in conſequence of Lord Pigot's refuſing to put his name to them, and declaring that they could have no effect without his ſignature, although they were approved by the Majority. This expedient was propoſed out of tenderneſs to Lord Pigot, who by ſuch refuſal had afforded grounds for a real charge againſt himſelf; yet ſtanding in this predicament, he could without

the leaſt remorſe conſtrue an act of delicacy and tenderneſs towards himſelf into a crime, upon which, by the ſame inhumanity, he propoſed to ruin thoſe gentlemen whom he charged with; and notwithſtanding he deprived them of their voices, could vote himſelf, although the accuſer.

206. Without conſidering the unparalleled violence of this whole proceeding, by which Lord Pigot attempted to free himſelf from the reſtraint of thoſe who oppoſed him, we appeal to your Honors whether a man, who could ſhew ſo great a depravity of mind, was fit to be truſted in that high office, wherein his power to do injury was equal to his inclination.

207. We confeſs that the conduct of Lord Pigot was ſo alarming to us, that we could not think of acting any longer in conjunction with him. When he had proceeded ſo far as to declare Meſſieurs Stratton and Brooke ſuſpended from the ſervice, to publiſh that pretended ſuſpenſion to the military in general orders, by his own authority, as the Act of the Preſident and Council, and to leave the names of thoſe two gentlemen out of the ſummons for aſſembling the Council the next day, we then plainly ſaw he was determined, at every riſk and by every violence, to ſecure a Majority; and as we had proteſted againſt the illegality of the proceeding relative to Meſſieurs Stratton and Brooke, we could not with any propriety attend a ſummons in which their names were left out. And indeed we have great reaſon to believe, if we had gone to Council with Meſſieurs Stratton and Brooke, and claimed the ſeats of thoſe two gentlemen, that an order was to have been given by Lord Pigot to ſeize them by a military force, a meaſure which would have effectually anſwered his Lordſhip's purpoſes.

208. We cannot doubt but the arguments uſed in the courſe of this Addreſs will be ſufficiently ſtrong to convince you, that the meaſures we have taken were indiſpenſably neceſſary in this dangerous and critical ſituation of your Government. Could we have thought that any expedient leſs firm and deciſive would have had the ſame effect, we ſhould certainly have adopted it; but we truſt, upon a due conſideration of all the circumſtances, that the remedy will not appear too violent for the diſeaſe. A man who ſo far forgets his duty to his Employers as to proceed in open defiance of their orders and authority, violates that commiſſion under which he acts, and wilfully throws himſelf out of their protection; but if, under the ſanction of that authority, he aſſumes to himſelf unwarrantable powers, and employs thoſe powers in breaking through every principle of the conſtitution, in attempts to deſtroy the public rights, and ruin the fortunes of men who are acting in the defence of it; when ſuch a man, knowing himſelf

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armed with an unlawful authority, deliberately orders the Commander in Chief, one of those persons in arrest, not for any military act, but for supporting the constitution in his civil capacity as a Member of Government, and exhibits a pretended charge against him, probably to affect his life; we say, in such circumstances as these, when the State was in the most imminent danger, what other alternative was left us?

209. The conduct of Lord Pigot towards the Nabob has been so hostile and oppressive, that we cannot help requesting your particular attention to it. You have always considered it as a point of the utmost consequence to your welfare and prosperity in India, and indeed it really is, to cultivate the friendship of this prince. His early connexion with the Company, and the services he has rendered them, claimed your distinguished regard and protection, and he has hitherto had the good fortune to experience them to the utmost extent of his wishes; but the treatment he has received from Lord Pigot personally has been so disgraceful, so unworthy his dignity as a prince, and his faithful attachment as a friend and ally of the English Nation, that it calls for the strongest marks of your resentment.

210. When this part of Lord Pigot's conduct comes under your consideration, we beg your reference to the Letter and Resolutions of the Governor-General and Council of Bengal, which are strong and pointed on the subject; they wait on you numbers in the packet. If any further proof were required to shew the fatal consequences to be apprehended from Lord Pigot's violence to the Nabob, we, who were witnesses to the whole course of his proceedings, can take upon ourselves to declare solemnly, that we think the Nabob would have been driven to the last extremity of despair, had Lord Pigot succeeded in his rash and violate attempts; nay to such a distracted state of mind was his Highness at length reduced, that he has been repeatedly heard to say, in the presence of his friends, that the personal ill-treatment of Lord Pigot would be the cause of his death, for that he neither could nor would survive the indignity and public disgrace that his Lordship was daily loading him with; and this too at a time when the material business of Tanjore was concluded, and his Lordship had nothing in commission from the Board to transact with his Highness. Proofs of this we can produce, as well as of a declaration made by the Nabob, before several respectable characters, "That being determined not to live, "his friends must bear witness that Lord Pigot was the cause of his "death."

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211. The situation of the Nabob, since the arrival of your orders respecting Tanjore, has been full of uneasiness. Those orders were conceived by him to be most degrading to his dignity and honour; he sensibly felt them as such; yet his feelings never betrayed him into any act, nor even into any expression, the least inconsistent with his friendship and regard for the Company.—It was upon this account we were the more desirous of carrying your orders into execution with the greatest delicacy and attention; but Lord Pigot, to whom this important business was intrusted, giving way to the violence of his temper, and inflamed by every little opposition he met with, committed the most flagrant acts of insult and injustice upon the Nabob's managers and servants; yet so strong has been the Nabob's attachment to the Company, so sensible hath he been of their past favour and protection, that even these repeated provocations only drew from him representations, complaining, indeed, in very strong terms of the conduct of Lord Pigot, but expressing the utmost confidence in the friendship and justice of the Company. And, upon this occasion, it may be necessary to add, that the Nabob sent positive orders to all his managers and officers, to take care, at their peril, that none of his Seapoys should fire a musket, or otherwise oppose any orders his Lordship might think proper to give; and the same injunctions were given to all his principal people.

212. In the present unhappy situation of public affairs at home, it is possible we may be involved in a war with France, and that this Coast might early feel the effects of it; it appears therefore of the greatest importance to you to strengthen and improve that connexion with the Nabob, which has been so much endangered by the rash and imprudent conduct of Lord Pigot, and to which our constant attention shall be paid.

213. And here we think it necessary to remark, that although the Nabob and this Government have sometimes differed on matters of real importance, yet we believe, from the conduct he has observed at a time when he looked upon himself as injured in the greatest degree by your orders relative to Tanjore, that his disposition towards the English Nation and the Company is such as may be depended upon, as his present situation differs greatly from what it was last year. It were to be wished, indeed, that the Nabob would consent to the maintenance of a general force for the defence of the Carnatic, but we fear the present time is not favourable for it. His infantry, it is true, by being dispersed lose their discipline; but his cavalry, if occasion should require, might be found of real service in the field; and we have every reason to believe, that if his assistance were required, he would most readily grant it to us. No reduction

tion however of his troops can at this time be made, as the increasing power of Hyder Ally Cawn, and the possibility of a war with France, make it necessary, for the security of the Carnatic, that the present establishment of his forces should be kept up.

214. Your Honours will no doubt attend to Lord Pigot's arguments against the admission of a previous question moved by Sir Robert Fletcher; but we appeal to you, if we had any other mode of knowing whether the Board would or would not allow us a day to consider, before we were forced to vote upon a question for the appointment of a Chief and Council at Tanjore, a measure which was altogether new and extraordinary, and appeared to be in direct contradiction (as the Governor-General and Council of Bengal have since declared) both to the spirit and letter of your orders. But here it is worthy of remark, that notwithstanding the late President's refusal to put the previous question moved by Sir Robert Fletcher, and his arguments *against all* previous questions, he was the person himself *who moved* the previous question, to which no one objected, upon one of Mr. Mackay's motions in these words, "That Mr. Mackay's question be "now put"; and you will likewise observe, a very extraordinary amendment by Lord Pigot upon one of Mr. Mackay's motions, which but ill agrees with his Lordship's arguments in his letter to your Honours, when he attempts to shew the difference between this Board and Public Assemblies.

215. But indeed the whole of Lord Pigot's conduct from the beginning has indicated a determined resolution in his Lordship to act in such manner as he should think proper, without adverting to the constitution or even the established rules and usage of the service; a remarkable instance of which occurred in his falsifying the public records of the Company. The day on which our letter to the Governor-General and Council of Bengal, that accompanied copies of our proceedings relative to Tanjore was read, we, the majority of the Board, directed the addition of two paragraphs to the letter; but Lord Pigot *requesting* they might not be added, we entered a minute, which was twice read, to this effect: "That the President requesting the paragraph should "not be added, the majority, out of compliment to him, resolved not "to insert them in the letter, but to enter them on the proceedings of "that day, for the information of the Government-General at Bengal." These words were however erazed the next day by his own hand, without our knowledge, and the following inserted: "The President objecting thereto, they stand only in this place.

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216. This alteration of the records, which he never communicated to us, is a ſtrong mark of the illegal conduct of Lord Pigot, and the conſequences which might enſue are too obvious to require enlarging upon; yet, when we reflect upon his ſaying at the Board, he would *ſuppreſs or deſtroy*, when he ſhould think proper, any letter addreſſed to the Preſident and Council, without ever communicating their contents to the Board; and on his repeated declarations, when ſeated as Preſident at the head of the Council, "That the late Act of Parliament, for the better management "of the affairs of the Eaſt-India Company, was *a vile act*," and that "The inſtructions of the Company to the Governor-General and Coun"cil of Bengal, which are equally binding upon this Preſidency, were "*vile inſtructions*," we had every reaſon to apprehend his whole conduct would be governed by ſuch principles; and the more particularly ſo, as he had violated both in many inſtances; one of which will, we hope, clearly evince to your Honours the truth of the aſſertion.

217. On the 28th of March we received a letter from the Governor-General and Council at Bengal, acquainting us, that the miniſterial party of the Marattas at Poonah would not liſten to the propoſals made to them by Colonel Upton, who had been deputed thither by the Government-General, and in ſhort that they were determined to hear of peace on no conditions, that ſhould not be excluſively honourable and advantageous to themſelves. That the miniſters having reſolved to ſend their army again into the field, they (the Governor-General and Council) had no alternative left, but a vigorous proſecution of the war againſt them in conjunction with Ragonaut Row, for the ſupport of whom they had taken every preparatory ſtep that had occurred to them for providing means to carry on the war with vigour and ſucceſs. That they recommended to us to ſuccour the Preſidency of Bombay with two battalions of Seapoys, or more if we could ſpare them; and particularly that we ſhould open a correſpondence with Nizam Ally Khan, Hyder Ally Khan, and Morarirow, and concur with them in uſing our joint efforts with thoſe powers for the re-eſtabliſhment of Ragobah.

218. In conſequence of this information from the Governor-General and Council of Bengal, of their intentions to proſecute the war againſt the miniſterial party of the Maratta State, we ordered two battalions of Seapoys, then ſtationed at Madura and Palamcotah, to hold themſelves in readineſs to march to Anjengo. And as forces from the three Preſidencies might act in conjunction in the expected war with

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the Marattas, General Fletcher, on the ſuppoſition that General Clavering could not be ſpared from the avocations of Government at Bengal, begged leave to offer his ſervices for conducting it. This we accordingly communicated to the Governor-General and Council, and at the ſame time informed them, that we were happy, in caſe of extremity, to have it in our power to afford ſuch able aſſiſtance in the general cauſe.

219. The moſt material part however of the directions of the Government-General, that of opening a correſpondence with the country powers before-mentioned for the re-eſtabliſhment of Ragobah, was entruſted to Lord Pigot, as Preſident of the Council.

220. Not doubting in the leaſt but that his Lordſhip would carefully attend to a matter of ſo important a nature, as that of a general war with the Marattas, which, if unſucceſsful, might poſſibly involve your affairs in India in utter ruin, we could not admit ourſelves to doubt but that his Lordſhip had taken the neceſſary meaſures on the occaſion.

221. In this however we were miſtaken; for Lord Pigot, notwithſtanding the then critical ſituation of affairs and his promiſe to write on his way to Tanjore, never addreſſed either of the abovementioned powers, or took any other ſtep whatſoever to bring them to the favourable diſpoſition towards Ragobah, ſo earneſtly wiſhed for by the Governor-General and Council. Fortunately an accommodation ſome time afterwards took place, which rendered any further exertions unneceſſary; ſo that the evil conſequences, which might otherwiſe be apprehended from the very great inattention of Lord Pigot, were not felt, as they moſt probably would, had hoſtilities been again commenced, as had been at firſt reſolved upon.

222. It is unneceſſary to remark to your Honours the criminality of ſuch a conduct on the part of Lord Pigot, or to point out to you where it directly violated the late Act of Parliament, and the inſtructions of the Company to the Governor-General and Council of Bengal.

223. In the ſecond article of your inſtructions to the Governor-General and Council of Bengal, your Honours are pleaſed to direct, "That the Correſpondence with the Princes or Country Powers in India "be carried on by the Governor-General only; but that all letters "to

" to be sent by him be first approved in Council, and that he lay be-" fore the Council at their next meeting all letters received by him in " the course of such correspondence for their information." These instructions, as we have before observed, we look upon as binding on all your Presidencies in India equally with Bengal, as far as local circumstances will admit.

224. How far Lord Pigot has acted conformably either to the letter or spirit of these instructions, we shall submit to the consideration of your Honours. We mean here only to remark, that his Lordship has frequently kept from us a knowledge of circumstances relative to the Country Powers, that were materially connected with your interests and the prosperity of the Carnatic. One of which, in particular, was, the total overthrow of Morarirow by Hyder Ally Khan, and of the disgraceful punishment inflicted on Morarirow by Hyder when he took him prisoner. This his Lordship did not communicate to us, although he knew that Morarirow was included in the treaty of Hydrabad, concluded in 1768 with Nizam Ally Khan, and that the increase of Hyder's power, in consequence of his success, might endanger the peace and tranquillity of these parts unless timely prevented.

225. We will not trespass longer on your Honours patience on this subject; we cannot however avoid requesting your particular attention to a letter written by the Nabob to Lord Pigot, wherein he complains in very strong terms of his Lordship's conduct. This letter was not produced by Lord Pigot 'till we had received a copy of it enclosed to us by Sir Edward Hughes, as mentioned in the first part of this address; wherefore we may naturally conclude, that this, as it contained a *heavy charge* against himself, was one of those letters he deemed it necessary to *suppress*; and that we should have remained ignorant of it's contents is very evident, had it not been conveyed to us through the channel of Sir Edward Hughes.

226. On the 22d of June Lord Pigot laid a draught of a letter before us, which he proposed we should address to your Honours by a conveyance which offered by the way of France. On our not approving of this letter, (which could be neither satisfactory to your Honours, or an explanation of the state of your affairs, and which aimed only at giving a partial impression of the divisions amongst us) Lord Pigot thought proper to address it to you from himself. We accordingly wrote you a short letter of the same date, and forwarded it by the same conveyance. Copies of both wait on you Numbers in the Packet.

227. In the 3d paragraph of Lord Pigot's ſeparate letter you will pleaſe to obſerve, that he declares expreſsly, " That the *whole* of his " conduct, during the time he had been at Tanjore, had been ſince " *diſapproved* by a majority of the Council." As your Honours will not find on the records any vote of our diſapprobation ſo marked and deciſive as you would ſuppoſe to have paſſed on Lord Pigot's conduct at Tanjore from his own declaration, you will of courſe be ſurpriſed, that he ſhould ſo readily admit a majority's total diſapprobation of ſo important a duty. Lord Pigot muſt have known, that a majority of the members of Adminiſtration conſtitutes the Government, and that the Government is your Repreſentative;—and further, that a condemnation of his conduct from your Repreſentative was the condemnation of the Company, until they ſhould be pleaſed finally to confirm or repeal it. In ſuch circumſtances, the readineſs with which Lord Pigot in a manner anticipated our total diſapprobation of his conduct at Tanjore, muſt have proceeded from one or two cauſes; either he judged of the reſult of our deliberation on his conduct after the various lights and explanations which daily aroſe from the Nabob's complaints and the claims of others, or, by repreſenting to your Honours our *total* diſapprobation of his conduct at Tanjore, (a chief part of which was the reſtoration of the Rajah) he wiſhed to make us appear to you as ſet in oppoſition to that meaſure. But the injuſtice of ſuch an intention, if it really dictated the declaration, is beſt diſproved by the circumſtances of the caſe. If Lord Pigot favoured the meaſure more zealouſly than we did, we certainly would not have left him the ſole and unreſtrained power to put it in execution.

228. In the courſe of the letter in queſtion, Lord Pigot endeavoured to connect what he was pleaſed to call the diviſions among us—a difference of opinion on the ſubject of a letter from Mr. Paul Benfield of the 29th May, upon which different opinions were formed in conſequence of a clearer conſideration of the ſubject. But previous to the conſideration of that letter, and before Lord Pigot's return from Tanjore, an event happened, which might have involved your affairs in the Carnatic; we mean the ſeizure of the Dobbeer, in the Nabob's country, by a military force acting under the authority of Lord Pigot, who has ſince juſtified the act in the ſtrongeſt terms in one of his public letters to the Nabob, as remarked by the Governor-General and Council of Bengal. On Lord Pigot's communication of this tranſaction to us on his return, ſome of the members of the Board ſaw not the meaſure in the fulneſs of it's critical extent; but your Honours will obſerve from the Nabob's letter how intimately that meaſure was connected with the diſtractions which have ſince prevailed between Lord Pigot and the

Nabob.

Nabob. Your Honours will likewise please to observe, that Lord Pigot might, by a more regular management at Tanjore, have saved your Government the very disagreeable difficulties in which we have been involved by the measure which gave rise to Mr. Benfield's application of the 29th May.

229. Having already begged your Honours would be referred to the letter and resolutions of the Governor-General and Council at Bengal on Lord Pigot's conduct, it may not be unnecessary here to desire your particular attention to the 2d paragraph of that letter, wherein they take notice of a draught of a letter presented to the Nabob by Lord Pigot, and required to be written by him to his Lordship, containing an approval of his Lordship's conduct, and an assurance of forgiveness for what had passed; and which they say afforded them a strong presumption, that the offers the Rajah of Tanjore so liberally had made, in opposition to his own interest, might have been drawn from him by the same indirect kind of influence. This we could not be assured of at the time we received their letter; but we have since his Lordship's arrest come at the knowledge of a letter to his Dubash, which proves to a certainty that the conjectures of the Government-General were not ill founded. This letter, together with copies of some others from the same person, will, without any comment on our part, shew you the very disagreeable situation the Rajah of Tanjore has been reduced to, as well as the Nabob, by his Lordship's conduct.

230. Another draught of a letter was laid before us by Lord Pigot a few days preceding his arrest, to be transmitted to your Honours by the Grenville; but this we likewise disapproved, as his Lordship had proceeded upon the same plan of partially representing matters that he had in his separate address before-mentioned.

231. We mean not here to enter into a discussion of that letter, or a refutation of many of the circumstances contained in it; but as Lord Pigot has been pleased to advance an implied accusation against your Commander in Chief, it is a justice we owe Sir Robert Fletcher on this occasion to declare to you, that his prudence, and the zeal which he has testified from the beginning for the execution of your orders, must sufficiently exculpate him from the conduct of which the late President would impeach him upon mere and uncertain report. The very terms in which his Lordship supposes *one of the Nabob's family* to inform against Sir Robert, are totally dissimilar to the terms in which

which a native of this country would convey information. We mean not by this remark to offer an affront to his Lordſhip's veracity, we only wiſh to ſhew you, that the ſpeech which his Lordſhip quotes from the mouth of one of the Nabob's family, is not like the ſtile and manner of a native of this country, ſo that we think it muſt have been compoſed by ſome European for an impoſition on his Lordſhip; a circumſtance that appears the more credible, from what his Lordſhip was pleaſed to think on firſt receiving the information; for he ſays expreſsly, "*That well knowing the artful and intriguing diſpoſition from* "*whence this information was received, your Preſident looked upon it as a* "*bait thrown out to amuſe him to prevent his ſetting out for Tanjore.*" Though it is very certain the packet for the Commiſſioners was opened by Lord Pigot, yet it contained nothing more than duplicates of the ſame diſpatches which were opened by Mr. Dupré in his government. The paragraphs were quoted on your records in Mr. Wynch's government by Mr. Stone in ſupport of the Nabob, who knew long before the laſt diſputes that the Company had been pleaſed to write ſo ſtrongly in favour of his rights.

232. It is worthy of remark, that notwithſtanding Lord Pigot declares this information was given him at the time of his departure to Tanjore the latter end of March laſt, he never thought proper to mention a word of this to Sir Robert Fletcher, or to the Board, until the time when your Commander in Chief was unable to attend Council by a dangerous illneſs, from which it was apprehended he could not recover. We thought it at the ſame time a duty due to his honour to communicate to him, even in the extremity of ſickneſs, a copy of his Lordſhip's accuſation; he received it in his bed, and juſtified himſelf from the charge, adding, "That if he ſhould recover "of his illneſs he ſhould be ready to diſprove it to the world, and to "convince every one, that any influence he had with the Nabob was "employed in ſhewing his Highneſs the neceſſity of complying with "the orders ſent out by the Grenville."

233. Sir Robert Fletcher has entered a minute on the ſubject in conſultation, to which we beg leave to refer your Honours.

234. Mr. Mackay likewiſe begs leave to obſerve, that the remark introduced by Lord Pigot in that letter, of Mr. Mackay's inſignificancy as a member of the Council, he looks upon as the greateſt compliment his Lordſhip could pay him, being convinced that if he was ſo inſignificant his Lordſhip would have thought it quite unneceſſary

to have mentioned his name with any degree of rancour on the records. Mr. Mackay always has, and always will declare himself an enemy to tyranny and oppression; and to the opposition he gave in Council to Lord Pigot and his associates he is certain he is indebted for the above remark.

235. We cannot here help observing to your Honours, that Mr. Dalrymple's violence, and arbitrary doctrines asserted at the Board, are among the principal causes of the continued scenes of altercation and confusion in which we have long been involved; and we are very sorry to observe, that it has long appeared clear to us, that Lord Pigot has been greatly governed by that gentleman in his publick conduct. Your Honours will perceive, upon the face of our proceedings, that the conduct of Mr. Dalrymple has been, in many instances, complained of by some of the members of the Board; and Sir Robert Fletcher particularly was driven to the necessity of declaring, that he would move to have his conduct taken into consideration; but the indisposition of Sir Robert, which followed soon after, was the cause of the enquiry not taking place.

236. As we have wished, in the course of this address, to lay before your Honours the whole of our publick conduct towards Lord Pigot, as well as the most secret motives that influenced us, we cannot here help observing, (although the matter has been in some degree already discussed) that considering the mixt authority vested in him, who, as military Governor within the fort and town of Madras, was, in our opinion, subject to martial law for offences committed as Governor and Commander in Chief within the fort; and also considering Lord Pigot as the President of the Council, whose offences are to be judged of by acts of Parliament, and by the instructions and regulations of the East-India Company, or by the known laws of England; upon all these accounts, we say, it became impossible for us to bring any one specific charge of offence against his Lordship, as in common cases is, and ought ever to be known to a person in his situation as soon after his confinement as possible. We have given very minutely all the circumstances that preceded the extraordinary exertion of power which we have been under the necessity of making in our own defence, and that of the constitution, and for the peace of this Settlement and of the Carnatic. Besides this State necessity, we think ourselves justified by the clear definition of government, according to the practice of every Presidency in

India, according to the expreſs words in the body of the commiſſion of government, where we obſerve, that the power over the officers and ſoldiers, in the fortreſs and city, is ſaid to be in the Governor and Council, or in the majority of the ſaid Council, according to every rational idea of what your wiſdom could ſuggeſt; where there may be any doubt as to the powers of the Preſident in himſelf, ſeparate from the Council, which we cannot bring ourſelves to believe to be ſuch, as that in our ſituation, ſo diſtant from immediate redreſs from you, our ſuperiors, Lord Pigot, or any Preſident, charged with crimes and offences of the nature contained in the minutes of our conſultations and letter, ſhould have it in his power to remain unalterably fixt in the chair, for years perhaps, diſtreſſing and impeding Government; maſter of the correſpondence with the country powers, refuſing to join his name with the majority, and aſſerting that no queſtion could be put, nor reſolution of the Board carried into execution, without his concurrence; irritating the Prince of the country, the ally of the Crown of Great Britain, and the friend of the Company; fomenting a ſchiſm in government, and party violence in the Settlement, which might in its conſequences encourage the neighbouring powers to take the advantage of ſuch a ſituation; we cannot, we ſay, bring ourſelves to imagine, that any ſuch independent power can reſide in the Preſident of your Council; on the contrary, that his name, and every authority veſted in him (whatever may be his opinion given by vote in Council) muſt, according to the conſtitution and uſage of the ſervice, be annexed to every act of government, that has the ſanction of a majority of your Council. And we cannot help here obſerving, that in the body of his military commiſſion, as Governor of this fort, and indeed by the expreſs terms of your inſtructions, defining the ſeparate military powers of the Governor and the Commander in Chief, Lord Pigot, as Governor of the fort, in every act of authority, was ſubject to the orders of the Governor and Council, which undoubtedly means the majority of the Council. Were it neceſſary to bring arguments from analogy, we need only refer you to the act of Parliament already mentioned, and to the mode of conducting buſineſs in the deliberations of the Government-General at Bengal; where it is well known, that almoſt ever ſince its eſtabliſhment, the government has been exerciſed by the majority, and the Preſident or Governor-General has ſeen it his duty to ſubmit and ſign the reſolutions he even diſſented to.

237. In reſpect to detaining Lord Pigot ſo long in arreſt, we muſt again urge to you, not to judge of us upon any ſeparate point, but to conſider the whole of our conduct, and the particular circumſtances, publick

lick and private, applicable to Lord Pigot, arising from the authority he might dare to assume as the supposed Governor, and from the means which his large fortune might enable him to use, in order to gain the purposes suggested by a natural violence and heat of temper, if he were at liberty, as a servant of the Company, merely suspended; weighing likewise in our own minds the state of distress and anxiety that this would occasion to the Nabob and to his family, we determined in all events to detain him under arrest, as an enemy to the State and to the Constitution of the Company, for reasons of State, and in order to preserve the peace of the Carnatic, which it is our duty in the first place to look to. We have at the same time taken particular care that his arrest shall be attended with as few inconveniences as the public trust in us will admit of. This appears from the daily reports from the Mount. Lord Pigot has permission to walk abroad when he is so inclined, and to dine with his son-in-law Mr. Monckton, at Mr. Monckton's house, whenever he thinks proper; besides, his most intimate friend, Mr. Dalrymple, has been permitted to assist him in his dispatches to England, and every paper, which he has as yet desired from the records for his own justification, has been granted him; and every one in the Settlement who chuses has daily access to him.

238. And thus having discussed, with as much candour as sincerity, the subject of our late divisions, we shall now draw this long address to a conclusion, relying on the justice of our cause with the utmost security as to the judgment you may pass, both as to our conduct and that of Lord Pigot's respectively. It is however necessary to beg your attention to the letters we shall address you from the Civil and Revenue Departments, wherein your Honours will find much matter on the same subject; and such, if it is essential, you should take into your most serious consideration.

239. Since writing the foregoing, we have received a letter from Mr. Paul Benfield, from Tanjore, to the following effect: That having never given cause to Lord Pigot to draw his resentment on him, he was at a loss to find out the reason why his Lordship should be induced to take measures against him so injurious to his credit and fortune, as he had already represented to the Board. That he had however since perceived, that his Lordship's views in so doing were interested, and that it was his own good, not that of the Company, he pursued in those measures during his late administration. That as a servant to the Company, and wishing to bring to light the true motives of

Lord Pigot's publick conduct, as well as in justice to himself, he took occasion to inform us, that he had arrived at the knowledge of certain transactions of Lord Pigot, such as his obtaining very large sums of money, jewels and plate to a very great amount, from Indian Princes, contrary to covenants and the repeated orders of the Company, and which constituted him guilty of an infringement of the late act of Parliament.—That as he was resolved to take every legal method, by prosecution or otherwise here and in England, to prove beyond a doubt such delinquency and breach of public trust in his Lordship; and as he should have occasion to apply to us to obtain certain evidences residing within the bounds of Tanjore, or in places belonging to his Highness the Nabob of the Carnatic, that he trusted he should meet with our assistance and support.—That he thought it his duty not only to make those representations to us, but that they might be known to Lord Pigot himself, against whom he meant to commence prosecutions before courts competent in such cases.

240. In answer to this letter from Mr. Benfield we informed him, that we did not understand what he meant by the words *obtaining evidence*. —That the only way we could act, was to recommend to the Princes in alliance with the Company to permit such of their subjects to come to this place, as might be necessary to give evidence in any suits he might think proper to prefer against Lord Pigot, without our interfering in any other respect either by our authority or influence.—That we should transmit a copy of his letter, with our answer, to Major Horne, in order that he might communicate the same to Lord Pigot.

241. On this subject we shall for the present remain silent; and having, in every circumstance relative to Lord Pigot treated him with the utmost candour, we will not even venture at hazarding an opinion until the facts are more fully brought to view.

We are, Honourable,

Your faithful humble servants,

Fort St. George,
24th September, 1776.

Geo. Stratton
Henry Brooke
Robt. Fletcher
Charles Floyer
Archdale Palmer
Geo. Mackay.

Number 15.

List of a Packet received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

List of the Packet from the President and Council of Fort St. George, in their Military Department, to the Honourable the Court of Directors, via Suez.

Number.

1.	General letter,	dated 10th October, 1776.
2.	Letter from the Rajah of Tanjore	25th Sept. 1776.
3.	Letter from the Rajah of Tanjore	26th Sept. 1776.
4.	Letter from the Nabob	3d October, 1776.
5.	Letter from the Nabob	5th October, 1776.
6.	General letter from Bengal	10th Sept. 1776.
7.	Letter from Sir Edward Hughes	8th October, 1776.
8.	Letter from Lord Pigot to Sir Edward Hughes	7th October, 1776.
9.	Letter to Sir Edward Hughes	9th October, 1776.
10.	Letter from Sir Edward Hughes	8th October, 1776.
11.	Minute of Sir Robert Fletcher and Mr. Jourdan.	
12.	Minute of the President, Messrs. Brooke, Palmer, and Mackay.	
13.	Minute of consultation	29th August, 1776.
14.	Circular letter from the Governor-General and Council to the Subordinacies.	
15.	List of the Packet.	

Dated in Fort St. George,
this 10th October, 1776.

R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Number 1.

Fort St. George General Letter, dated 10th October, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

To the Honourable the Court of Directors for Affairs of the Honourable the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East-Indies.

Honourable,

Par. 1. Since closing our general dispatches to your Honours of the 24th and 26th ultimo, we have received two letters from the Rajah of Tanjore, copies of which now wait on you enclosed.

2. On reference to our proceedings of consultation in the civil department 28th June, your Honours will be pleased to observe, that among the many reasons urged by Lord Pigot for the appointment of a Chief and Council at Tanjore, the particular desire of the Rajah is mentioned as a principal one, who, he informed us, was so "Sincerely desirous of strengthening his connexion with the Company by every means in his power, that it would be agreeable to him if the Company would send proper persons to attempt an investment in his country, where they might be sure of meeting with every support and assistance that could be received from his authority." How far this assertion of Lord Pigot accords with matter of fact your Honours will be able to judge from the papers now before you. The Rajah's dislike to the appointment of either a Chief and Council or Resident is evident from his letters, wherein you will be pleased to observe he expresses an anxious desire to have the free and uncontrolled government of his country in his own hands. We will not enter into a discussion of the reasons which might have induced Lord Pigot to recom-

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mend the appointment of a Chiefship or Residency at Tanjore, or of the motives which afterwards led him to an obstinate perseverance in support of that measure; it will be sufficient to remark, that it clearly appears to us from the Rajah's letters to have been proposed without his concurrence.

3. The reasons we urged against this favourite project of Lord Pigot, as we could not view it otherwise than an interference with the Rajah's government, will, we are convinced, meet with the entire approbation of your Honours. They were in every respect conformable to your commands of the 12th April, 1775, per Grenville, and, as it has since appeared, to the sentiments of the Governor-General and Council at Bengal, who, on taking the subject into consideration, have thought proper expressly to declare, "That they should consider any authority given "to interfere in the affairs of that government as a breach of your "positive orders, and that an appointment, such as proposed by Lord "Pigot, was too liable to suggest to the neighbouring powers the "apprehension, that the act for restoring the Rajah of Tanjore to the "possession of his dominions, was only a pretence for vesting the sove"reignty and government of that country in the Company under the "name of the Rajah.

4. We have likewise received a letter from the Nabob, informing us, that Lord Pigot, in a publick letter of the 25th June, advised him of the resolution of the Board, "That he was entitled to the Government-share of the last year's crop in the Tanjore country, but that his Lordship had privately sent him an English draught of a letter some days after that resolution had passed, (which we observe to your Honours was without the knowledge of the Board, and in opposition to a resolution of a great majority of the Board) written in his own hand, which he desired his Highness would address to him, containing a proposal to let his claim to the Government-share of the last year's crop in the Tanjore country remain as it was until your pleasure should be known. A copy of this is a number in the packet, and needs no other comment

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than what will occur on reading the paragraph of the letter from the Governor-General and Council of Bengal, which relates to a similar one delivered by Lord Pigot to the Nabob, and of which a copy is also a number in the packet.

5. After having taken up perhaps too much of your time with respect to the nature of the claims on the Tanjore country whilst the Nabob was master of it, we shall only add, that when we gave our opinion on this business, we desired Lord Pigot would acquaint the Rajah, "That "we recommended to him to see justice done, leaving the manner "and time to himself;" but as we do not think it likely the Rajah will give the Nabob any satisfaction in this matter without your interference, we shall wait your orders on this subject.

6. Were there not already a sufficient number of instances stated to your Honours of the arbitrary and illegal conduct of Lord Pigot, these would be of themselves enough to shew you the very serious difficulties in which your affairs would thereby have been involved.

7. Since writing the aforegoing, we have received a letter from the Governor-General and Council at Bengal, dated the 10th of last month, together with paragraph of your commands to them by the Lioness, both of which confirm, in the amplest manner, the propriety of the line we have been compelled to take as a majority of the Council. A copy of their letter waits on your Honours enclosed.

8. A letter has been addressed to Lord Pigot by the Governor-General and Council at Bengal to the same effect as that we have received, and likewise one to Commodore Sir Edward Hughes, requesting his aid and assistance, if necessary, in uniting with them in the support of our authority and government.

9. Sir Robert Fletcher a few days ago made application to us for leave to proceed to the Cape of Good Hope in the Greenwich for the

recovery

recovery of his health, which has for some time past been in a very declining state. Although we were much concerned at the cause of this request, which was likely to produce the temporary absence of Sir Robert Fletcher, from whose zeal and abilities the Company have reaped great service, yet the necessity appeared so urgent from the Surgeon's Certificate, that we could not hesitate a moment in giving him our permission. As soon as Lord Pigot was informed of this step, he addressed a letter to Sir Edward Hughes, acquainting him, that Sir Robert Fletcher had been ordered in arrest the 23d of August by himself and the Members of Council, and that as he had not been legally released, his Lordship desired him to inform us, that he should hold us responsible for all the consequences that might ensue from our permitting him to remove out of the jurisdiction of the military authority established by act of Parliament. Apprehensive however that this representation would not be sufficient to delay Sir Robert's departure for the Cape, his Lordship at the same time filed a bill of complaint against him in the Mayor's Court for false imprisonment, laid his damages at 200,000 l. and prayed the Court to issue a writ of Ne exeat Regnum.

10. Although we were before well acquainted with Lord Pigot's disposition, we did not conceive him so void of humanity as he has shewn himself in this instance. The means which his Lordship has taken to prevent Sir Robert Fletcher from going to the Cape are not confined to the sole cause of obtaining justice; they appear evidently to be founded on personal pique and resentment, and to gratify these he is at no pains to conceal the spirit by which he is actuated. His Lordship, at the head of a minority of the Members of Government, having violently usurped the powers of the whole Board, had the cruelty to order Sir Robert Fletcher in arrest on the 23d August, under all the usual formalities, for a supposed capital crime, while he was lying upon his bed in the most dangerous state of health; still persevering in the same temper towards Sir Robert, he is not content with filing a suit against him for excessive damages, but he makes

this illegal arreſt a pretence for keeping him in the Settlement at a time when he is told by his phyſicians, that a voyage to the Cape is neceſſary for his recovery.

11. Sir Robert Fletcher is now better than when he applied to us for leave to go to the Cape, and if he continues to mend, he intends to ſtay with us, and not to go thither.

12. We ſhall add no further comment upon Lord Pigot's conduct than to obſerve, that we daily, even hourly, ſee reaſons ſufficient to convince us of the propriety of having taken from him that uſurped power, which he had the will to employ in ſacrificing every thing to his perſonal reſentment. We beg leave to encloſe copies of Sir Edward Hughes's letter on this occaſion to us, and our anſwer; alſo copy of the letter from Lord Pigot to Sir Edward Hughes. Your Honours will no doubt remark the peculiar impropriety of Lord Pigot's writing, and of Sir Edward Hughes's forwarding to us, a letter diſavowing our authority, after they had both received information from the Governor-General and Council approving the meaſures we had taken, and expreſſing their firm reſolution to ſupport the authority of our Government.

13. Sir Robert Fletcher and Mr. Jourdan having delivered in a joint minute, propoſing that more members be added to the Council, it was reſolved by a majority in the negative. We encloſe copy of their minute, and of the minute delivered in by the Preſident, and ſubſcribed to by the other members of the majority; alſo copy of the minute paſſed the 29th Auguſt, relative to the vacancies in the Committee of Circuit and thoſe of the Council.

14. The Governor-General and Council at Bengal have thought it neceſſary to write a letter upon *the act of arreſting* Lord Pigot to all our

our northern Settlements, a copy of which we think it material to transmit to your Honours a number in the packet.

We are,

Honourable,

Fort St. George,
October the 10th, 1776.

Your faithful humble servants,

Geo. Stratton
Henry Brooke
Rob. Fletcher
Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan
Geo. Mackay.

Number 2.

Letter from the Rajah of Tanjore, dated 25th September, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

Translation of a Maratta Letter from Tuljaujee Maharajah to the Honourable George Stratton, Esquire, President and Governor, &c. Council at Fort St. George, dated the 25th September, 1776.

ON the 16th of this month I received your favour dated the 7th instant, and I was greatly rejoiced at it; wherein you wrote me, that some time ago, in a letter that was written by Lord Pigot, was mentioned the determination of the Governor and Council that was made on account of Mr. Benfield's affairs, that I must act according to justice, and that if I perused the letter in which the opinion of the Governor and Council was given, I should know that I am obliged to make the payments.

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On the ſubject of Mr. Benfield's affairs Lord Pigot did not write me any letter I never knew any thing concerning it; beſides, I do not underſtand the determination of the Board; therefore if you will be pleaſed to ſend me copies of Lord Pigot's letter, and the determination of the Board, I will examine into the affairs and tranſact it according to juſtice: whatever is agreeable to you will be perfectly ſo to me. You are ſenſible of all things.

What can I ſay more?

A true Copy. R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Number 3.

Letter from the Rajah of Tanjore, dated 26th September, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

Tranſlation of a Maratta Letter from Tuljaujee, Maharah of Tanjore, to the the Honourable George Stratton, Eſquire, Preſident and Governor, &c. Council of Fort St. George, dated 26th September, 1776.

I WRITE particularly in anſwer to your letter dated 7th September, wherein you mentioned, that "I would on all occaſions open my mind to you, and without the leaſt reſerve expreſs what I wiſh, as it is your earneſt deſire, as well as that of the Council, to make me and my people happy and contented; and that if I have any grievance, to inform you;" when I have ſuch friends as you and the Council to ſupport me and my credit, to whom ſhould I otherwiſe apply?

You wrote me, that you and the Council were unwilling to appoint a Chief and Council or Reſident here; what occaſion was there for ſuch an appointment, and what buſineſs had they to do here? Some time ago I had the misfortune to diſagree with the Nabob, and by that my Government affairs, with reſpect to the repair of the Annecut, &c. were hindered by ſome of my enemies. As I am under

the protection of the Honourable Company, it is necessary that they should protect me from the perplexities of my enemies. I had applied to Lord Pigot in order to assist me in my Government affairs, upon that I do not know what has passed; now my desire is, that your Honour, &c. should be careful that there should not be any disturbance in my Government, and that I may have full power to govern the country freely, without having any troubles of my enemies; the heaviness of transacting according to my request is upon you and the Council, you know it perfectly well.

You mentioned in your letter, that it had been represented to you that my mind was disturbed with fears and alarms; there was no cause for any such thing; besides, how can I be under fears at any time, when the Honourable Company (who had saved me from all fears) are in power to assist me and my generations? Besides, what reason have I to be concerned, when I am certain that there will not happen any disturbance? for what they have done must remain as long as the sun and moon endure, and that I am easy by their shewing me favour and friendship. How much do I commend them for their humanity and favour, in restoring me to my country, and establishing me in it. You will be pleased to inform the Honourable Company of my firm attachment to them, so that my Government may be settled for ever, and you will acquaint me of their goodness that I may be happy.

You wrote me concerning the Vackeels and Dubash; I did not take them into my service by the recommendation of any person, but myself took them into the business; but having reason to form suspicions of them, I have dismissed Rudraja Pundut, Vackeel, and Oppoo, Dubash. Concerning the Vackeel's duty, my Vackeel, the son of Shambaujee Pundut, is waiting upon you, therefore I have no business to take any Dubash in that duty.

You will be pleaſed to write letters to me in Marattas, as is uſual, which will be eaſy for me.

You mentioned in your letter that nobody had any authority from you to interfere in my buſineſs, and for the ſame account you gave ſtrict orders to your Dubaſh; and alſo you aſſure me of your good intentions, and that it is your determined reſolution to ſupport me in my government to the utmoſt of your power. You will be pleaſed to protect me, that I may carry on the government affairs eaſily without any one giving me trouble.

As you are wiſhing for my happineſs and long life, I can have no concern whatever, and am quite eaſy, ſince I am to be ſupported by the Honourable Company; and as I have theſe aſſurances from you I am eaſy, without taking any conſideration into my head. Be pleaſed to continue to protect me in all my affairs. You are ſenſible of all things.

What can I ſay more?

A true Copy. R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Number 4.

Letter from the Nabob, with Draughts of Letters given him by Lord Pigot.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

Tranſlation of a Letter from the Nabob to Governor Stratton, dated and received 3d October, 1776.

I HAVE received your letter of the 14th September. The ſatisfaction you expreſs on the declaration I make, in being ready to unite in whatever may be for the benefit and advantage of the Carnatic, and the intereſts of the Company, is a mark of the ſincerity of your friendſhip

friendship and makes me very happy. I shall always be obliged to the Company, and am and will be united with them whether in good or bad times; and shall always consider their advantages and interests as one and the same with my own. You write, " That I may be assured it " will always be your greatest pleasure to pay attention to my honour " and dignity, and you hope that in future I shall have no occasion to " complain of the conduct of the Company's servants." I am much obliged to you for this declaration; as my friendship with the Company and English Nation has subsisted thro' a length of years, both in bad and good times, in full force, has even from the beginning been the same, has been found true on the touchstone of trial, and will in future, with the blessing of God, continue the same in me and my children, I entertain hopes on this ground of receiving from the Company's agents such attentions as your Letter expresses; but further I have always, from the commencement of my friendship with the Company and the English Nation, flattered myself with hopes of increase of honours and the preservation of my own rights. I had no personal dislike to Lord Pigot, my dislike was to his conduct, in which it appeared he was bent to lessen my honour, to disgrace me, and to destroy my rights, for which I look for justice to my good friends. I send you, agreeably to your desire, copies of my letters of the 16th July and 17th August, which Lord Pigot did not give to the Council.

Sir, among other particulars of Lord Pigot's conduct, one was, that from the beginning he did not approve of my writing to the Governor and Council, and told me not to write without shewing him the draughts of my letters; and if I wrote, and he approved of my letters, he shewed them to the Council, but if he disapproved of them, he did not deliver them in to the Board; perhaps then he may not have delivered in many of my letters that were disagreeable to himself. His Lordship was exceedingly displeased with my letter of the 12th of February last, setting forth to the Company the real state of matters here with

with respect to the affairs of Tanjore, and told me not to write in such terms; but to write a short letter, declaring, "That in compliance with "Lord Pigot's representation I had consented, and that I should attend to what he might say;" but I represented all the circumstances of that affair to the Company. For these reasons, being aware of Lord Pigot's disposition, I was under apprehensions, and therefore wrote the circumstance of setting a guard of Europeans over me in my letter to Commodore Sir Edward Hughes, that through his means it might be communicated to the Council. Lord Pigot, in a publick letter of the 25th of June, wrote of his intentions of giving me the grain of the Tanjore country, but privately sent an English draught of a letter written in his own hand, that I might write one conformably to it; and, after coming from Tanjore, delivered me the draught of a letter in his own hand-writing to be addressed to himself. I have sent you the copies of them, and they will clearly shew you his Lordship's disposition. I have received the copy you sent me of the resolves of the Governor-General and Council of Bengal; they are a clear proof of the justice, virtue, and wisdom of those Gentlemen; their wise and judicious conduct has been the means of making me very happy, and is deserving of the highest applause. I am much obliged to you for your goodness in sending me a copy of their resolutions.

What can I say more?

A true Copy.

Copies of Draughts of Letters given by Lord Pigot to the Nabob, and alluded to in his Highness's Letter, 3d October, 1776.

I AM very happy at my friend's return. I forgive you for every thing you have done. The man who is faithful to his master will ever be so to his friend. You have finished the Company's business, I hope you will not forget mine. I will lay before you the whole state of my affairs,

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and I desire your assistance to settle them to the satisfaction of the Company, that I may be happy.

A true Copy. R. J. SÚLIVAN, Secretary.

I have received your letter of the 23d July. Being happy upon every occasion to convince you that I sincerely wish to be guided by the judgment of the Company, I will let my claim to the Government-share of the last year's crop of the Tanjore country remain as it is until their pleasure be known.

I will never give up my pretensions, and what I think my right to the Tanjore country in general; but the same inclination which leads me to testify my desire of conforming to the Company's pleasure, prompts me to tell you, that you may dispose of Hanamantagoody and Arnee in the manner you may think most conformably to the wishes of the Company, relying upon their justice.

With respect to the Tripassore, &c. districts, I wish to rent them upon the Company's terms. The rent I pay is large, but I will in a few days let you know what I think is their real value.

What can I say more?

A true Copy. R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Number 5.

Letter from the Nabob, dated 5th October, 1776, with a Paper given by Lord Pigot to his Highness; and Copy of a Letter from him to Lord Pigot.

Received over-land by Lieutenant Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

THE President acquaints the Board, that the Nabob has delivered to him a paper containing the amount of the orders he has given upon the

Tanjore country. That the Nabob has likewife given him an order directed to all his Amildars, &c. commanding them to account with fuch perfons as he, the Prefident, may name, for all the fums collected in the Tanjore country fince the 9th inftant; and directing the faid Amildars, &c. to relinquifh all manner of authority, fhould they be required by him fo to do.

The Prefident thinks therefore the Company's orders may now be carried into effect, and that the Rajah fhould be placed in the full poffeffion and management of the country by a public order to all the Amildars, &c.

The fafety of Tanjore, and the fecurity of the Rajah and his family, appearing to make it neceffary that an Englifh garrifon fhould not only be in the fort, but the country alfo be protected by the Company's troops; the Prefident recommends, that the Rajah be requefted to permit the fame, and to allot for this purpofe a fum not exceeding the amount of what he formerly paid to his own troops.

The fafety of the Carnatic depends upon a well-difciplined force, regularly paid, being kept up; the particular fafety and quiet of every individual feems to require that no other force fhould be permitted to be kept up; and thefe confiderations induce the Board to wifh that the Rajah would join them in their endeavours to place the country in this fituation.

In order to induce the Nabob to affent hereto, the Rajah may be defired to allow the amount of the feveral orders the Nabob has given upon the Tanjore country to be difcharged out of the revenues thereof.

The provifion thus made towards the fupport of the army by the Rajah of Tanjore, will render it unneceffary for the Nabob in time of

peace

peace to be at a greater expenſe than the ſum the Company now charge him with; and ſuch of his regiments of horſe as have been long in his ſervice, and he is deſirous of having continued in pay, may be kept up without putting him to that expenſe.

The Preſident adds, that having explained this to the Nabob, his Highneſs in teſtimony of his ſincere friendſhip to the Company readily aſſents thereto.

A true Copy.

Tranſlation of a Letter from his Highneſs the Nabob to Governor Stratton.

IN anſwer to your favour of the 4th September, in which you requeſted copies of the two letters I wrote to the Governor and Council, and which Lord Pigot had kept himſelf, I wrote to you a letter the 3d October, 1776; from which you will know the cauſe of Lord Pigot's kindneſs to me, in not laying my letter which he did not approve of before the Board. I now write for your information.

On the 26th February, 1776, in the morning, Lord Pigot delivered a paper, written by himſelf, in Engliſh, to Mr. Chambers, the Company's Moonſhy and Perſian Tranſlator. Omdat ul Omrah and Ameer ul Omrah, my two ſons, whom I deſired to go and viſit Lord Pigot at the Company's gardens, ſent it to me with this meſſage; "That "his Lordſhip would lay that paper before the Board that day, and "whatever that paper contained, whether I conſented to it or not, "he would do it by force." This very much aſtoniſhed me, and I immediately told Mr. Chambers and my two ſons, that I had never ſaid any ſuch things to Lord Pigot; and how could he write in this manner in my name? Afterwards Mr. Chambers took a copy of Lord Pigot's paper, and carried it to his Lordſhip.

As

As Lord Pigot had taken the liberty of writing ſuch things without my knowledge, I did not know what falſities he might tell of me in Council; for this reaſon, in anſwer to that paper, I wrote a publick letter to the Governor and Council, dated 27th February, 1776. As I ſuſpect that Lord Pigot has never laid before the Board either his own paper or my letter, I have ſent you encloſed copies of both in Engliſh; I have alſo ſent a copy of my own letter in Perſian, to explain this to you. From this buſineſs you will underſtand all his actions.

Dated, 21ſt Shaubaun, 1190 Hegira.
5th October, 1776.

A true Copy.

Tranſlation of a Letter from his Highneſs the Nabob to Lord Pigot, dated 7th Mohurrum, 1190 *Hegira, or 27th February,* 1776.

IN anſwer to your Lordſhip's requeſt of the 23d February, 1776, or 3d Mohurrum, 1190 Hegira, to be informed what orders I had given on the Tanjore Country, and what perſon I wiſhed to be ſent on a deputation thither, I ſent you by my two ſons a paper, containing my opinion, on the 26th February; upon this your Lordſhip ſent me by Mr. Chambers a paper written in your own hand for my peruſal. The contents of that paper ſurprized me much. From the time in which a garriſon of my friends has been put in Tanjore, I have repeatedly explained to your Lordſhip, as in my letter of the 22d January, my ſentiments relative to my rights, and the difficulties that would ariſe from interfering with the buſineſs of the country.

I now write your Lordſhip, that I did not explain to you my ſentiments in the manner you have been pleaſed to write in the paper ſent by Mr. Chambers. I beg your Lordſhip may write me what you propoſe to ſay on this ſubject; I will in return write your Lordſhip my ſentiments plainly. I always regard my good

friends the Company as the protectors of my honour, my reputation, and my family.

A true Copy. R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Number 6.

General Letter from Bengal, dated 10th September, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

The Honourable George Stratton, Esquire, President, &c. and Council at Fort St. George.

Gentlemen,

Par. 1. WE have received your letter of the 23d August, by the Shrewsbury, and we have also received a letter from the Right Honourable Lord Pigot, dated 29th August, by the Triton.

2. Having maturely considered the subject of these letters, we proceed immediately to acquaint you with our determination upon them.

3. The rights and powers of the Governor and Council at Fort St. George, being, by the original constitution, vested in the majority of the members who compose that body, and the intemperate conduct of Lord Pigot, your late President, in forcibly excluding two of your members from their seats at the Board, having been the cause of the unhappy separation of the majority of your Board from the minority; in this alarming and dangerous situation of your Government, we think it incumbent on us to declare, that we acknowledge the title and authority which we understand you have been thus compelled to assume; in consequence whereof we have resolved to support you in the Government, by all the means which you may require from us, and we have it in our power to grant, in virtue of our general instructions, to afford our aid and protection to all the Presidencies of the Company in India.

4. Although you have not yet notified to us that you have assumed the administration of the Presidency of Fort St. George, nor informed us of all the circumstances which produced that event, yet we are too well apprised of the series of transactions, which led to it, to entertain a doubt with respect to the conduct we ought to pursue on this occasion; and the crisis is too urgent and alarming to admit of our waiting to enter into a more minute investigation of all the facts and proceedings which have reduced the Government of Fort St. George to its present situation, and *us* to the necessity of deciding upon it; it is sufficient for us to know, that in supporting that part of a divided administration, which is formed by a majority of its members, we support the legal and constitutional Government.

5. We judge it proper however to mention, that we should have been very glad to offer our mediation to conciliate past differences, instead of pursuing the more decisive line which we have adopted, had we conceived any hopes of success; but we feared that your differences had gone too far to admit of it, and that a want of success in promoting that desirable end might have been attended with consequences more fatal than any which can result from our present decided resolution.

6. After so recent an example of the disposition of your late President, as appears in his conduct towards the Nabob, and while our decision on the appeal, which was made to us by the Nabob on that occasion, was yet depending, we could not but be greatly alarmed for the peace of the Carnatic, when we heard of the unexampled means by which Lord Pigot had endeavoured to usurp the powers of your Government, by attempting to procure a majority of the Council by violence in order to sanctify his measures.—Thus deprived of the aid on which we had depended from the integrity of a large majority of the members of your late Council, who had stedfastly opposed the hostile measures adopted by his Lordship against the Nabob, what hope could we any longer entertain that our orders on these points, which were contained in our letter

letter of the 7th Auguſt, would not be openly diſobeyed or covertly eluded, when the execution of them was thus left to the diſcretion of that power which they were meant to control? Notwithſtanding what has followed, we are not yet free from our apprehenſions; we therefore judge it neceſſary to give you this notice, that our final reſolution on the charges preferred againſt your late Preſident only remains ſuſpended, and that if any change ſhall have taken place, ſince the date of your laſt advices, which ſhall make it neceſſary for us to recur to the opinions which we have already delivered upon them, we ſhall not fail to proceed to the laſt extremities warranted by the controlling powers veſted in us by the late regulating act of Parliament for the preſervation of the national faith, and of the Company's engagements with their ally the Nabob of the Carnatic.

7. Senſibly concerned as we are for the diſorders which have unhappily taken place in the Government of Fort St. George, we muſt ſtill continue to feel the moſt painful apprehenſions of the conſequences which may enſue from ſuch a convulſion. We earneſtly deſire therefore that you will furniſh us with conſtant advice of every ſubſequent tranſaction, which may have any relation to this unfortunate affair, and in which the general intereſts of the Company may be eventually concerned, to enable us at all times to be prepared to contribute our aid by any means that may be neceſſary to conduce to the ſafety of your Settlement.

8. To remove every poſſibility of a doubt that the whole power of your Board reſts in a majority of its members, we tranſmit you an extract of a General Letter which we have lately received from the Honourable Court of Directors by the Lioneſs, wherein you will find their ſentitiments very clearly expreſſed.

9. We have thought it proper to acquaint Sir Edward Hughes with the reſolutions we have formed, under the preſent circumſtances, with

respect to your Presidency, and to request that he will unite with us in support of your authority and government.

We are, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble servants,

(Signed) Warren Hastings,
John Clavering,

Richd. Barwell,
P. Francis.

Fort William,
10th September, 1776.

A true Copy, R. J. Sulivan, Secretary.

Number 7.

Letter from Sir Edward Hughes, dated 8th October, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

To George Stratton, Esquire, President and Governor, &c. Council of Fort St. George.

Sir and Gentlemen,

HAVING received a letter from Lord Pigot, I think it necessary to send you the enclosed copy of the same, that you may act therein as to you may appear most proper.

I am, Sir and Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Salisbury, in Madras Road,
8th October, 1776.

EDWD HUGHES.

A true Copy. R. J. Sulivan, Secretary.

Number

Number 8.

Lord Pigot's Letter to Sir Edward Hughes, dated 7th October, 1776. Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

To Sir Edward Hughes, Commodore and Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Ships in India.

SIR,

AS I understand that Sir Robert Fletcher hath applied to Messieurs George Stratton, Henry Brooke, Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer, Francis Jourdan and George Mackay, for permission to proceed to the Cape of Good Hope on the ship Greenwich now under dispatch, and being apprehensive, in case such permission should be granted him, that he may thereby elude being brought to justice for the crimes for which he was ordered in arrest the 23d of August last by myself and the Members of Council, and from which arrest he has not been legally released; I desire you will acquaint the said George Stratton, Henry Brooke, Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer, Francis Jourdan and George Mackay, that I shall deem them responsible for all the consequences that may ensue from their permitting him, Sir Robert Fletcher, to remove out of the jurisdiction of the military authority established by act of Parliament for the better government of the Company's troops in the East Indies, until the pleasure of the Court of Directors be known, as in the present situation of myself and other legal Representatives of the Company on this Coast, it is not in our power to bring him to his trial.

I have the honour to be,
With the greatest esteem,
Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

St. Thomas's Mount,
7th Sept. 1776. (Signed) PIGOT.

A true Copy. R. J. Sulivan, Secretary.

Number 9.

Letter to Sir Edward Hughes, dated 9th October, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

To Sir Edward Hughes, Commodore and Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Ships in India.

SIR,

WE have had the honour to receive your letter of the 8th instant, and cannot but express our concern that after having perused the letter from the Governor-General and Council, of which we sent you a copy, expressing their approbation of the late measures, and enclosing copy of orders from the Company by the Lioness, and after the letter, you inform us, you also have received, you should transmit to us a copy of the one from Lord Pigot disavowing our authority. We hope, Sir, you will be pleased to take this subject into your consideration, and we doubt not but you will see the impropriety of our receiving such letters through you.

We have the honour to be with esteem,

Sir, your most obedient

And most humble servants,

(Signed) Geo. Stratton
Henry Brooke
Robt Fletcher
Archl. Palmer
Francis Jourdan
Geo. Mackay.

Fort St. George,
9th October, 1776.

A true Copy. R. J. Sulivan, Secretary.

Number 10.

Letter from Sir Edward Hughes, dated 8th October, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

Salisbury, in Madras Road, the 8th Day of September, 1776.

Sir and Gentlemen,

I HAVE received your letter of yesterday's date with the enclosures, and in answer thereto acquaint you, that the Governor-General and Council of Bengal, in their letter to me, express themselves in the following words:

——" Requesting that you will unite with us in affording your " assistance and support to the actual Government of Madras, if any " change of circumstances should render it necessary for them to de-" sire it."——

And that it is my intention to act as they have requested, of which I mean immediately to forward information to them, as I now do to you. I am,

Sir and Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble servant,

(Signed) EDWARD HUGHES.

A true Copy. R. J. Sulivan, Secretary.

George Stratton, Esquire, President and Governor, &c. Council——Fort St. George.

Number

Number 11.

Minute of Sir Robert Fletcher and Mr. Jourdan, dated 9th October, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

WHEN the Court of Directors were pleased to give orders by the Grenville, forbidding us to fill up vacancies in the Council here until it were reduced to twelve, it consisted of nineteen members. From these they appointed a Committee of five to make a circuit of the northern Circars and the Jagueer; besides these five, and after allowing four others for the subordinate settlements, there remained ten for the Presidency. When the Committee should return from the Circars there would be fifteen for this Board, and after fulfilling the above order, by reducing the number to twelve, there would remain eight, which seems clearly to be the lowest number to which the Company intend the general management of their affairs under this Presidency should be intrusted.

In the usual course of the service this order, as all others, ought certainly to be strictly attended to. Servants as we are, and accountable for our conduct, nothing can excuse us in deviating from their commands but some extraordinary emergency, some pressing occasion, which in their instructions may not be provided for. Such emergency and occasion we are of opinion has now arisen, by the late alteration that has happened in the Council; it was impossible that our Honourable Masters should either foresee or provide against it; and such being the case, it appears to us not only eligible, but requisite, that we should in the mean time fill up the vacancies in Council to what appears to have been their intention. By this we do not propose that they should be put to any additional expense, or that it should be considered in any other light than an expedient adopted in necessity until we can be favoured with their instructions.

The

The Council now here will confist of only five members, all of whom had a fhare in the late diffenfions and change of government. The impropriety of leaving in fo few hands the whole management of the Company's affairs, political and commercial, but more efpecially under the above circumftances, is fo evident, and at one view is fo convincing, as to render argument unneceffary.

On a reconfideration of the orders of our Honourable Mafters refpecting the Committee of Circuit, we find the truft of fuch magnitude and importance, that we are perfuaded it was intended by them that it fhould be compofed of Members of the Council; for they are not only to examine into the value, &c. of all the lands, but alfo to let them out; and as the ftation of a Member of Council, under an oath of fidelity to the Company, implies a greater refponfibility than is expected from an inferior fervant, there feems fufficient ground for this opinion.

By filling up the vacancies we fhall not only be able to accomplifh the Company's intentions, but we fhall add to our Councils men free of the late difputes, and unbiaffed in their opinions; and we fhall have the credit of voluntarily, and of our own accord, diffufing the power from the few hands in which it is at prefent confined into thofe of a greater number; but by refraining to do fo we may incur the imputation of being with-held by interefted and felfifh motives; perhaps the imputation alfo of what we underftand has been alledged by Lord Pigot and his adherents, "*That we are a party, who have long wifhed to get and retain* "*the government to ourfelves; and that the late change was greatly promoted* "*by the Nabob, who, they add, ftill maintains an improper influence.*"

For all thefe reafons we wifh the Board to take into their ferious confideration the neceffity of forthwith filling up the vacancies, that our Honourable Mafters may be advifed thereof by the Swallow.

A true Copy. Chas. Oakeley, Secretary.

Number 12.

Minute of Messieurs Stratton, Brooke, Palmer, and Mackay, dated 9th October, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

Minute of the Majority.

THE President, Messieurs. Brooke, Palmer, and Mackay, cannot but express their concern to be under the necessity of differing in opinion with Sir Robert Fletcher and Mr. Jourdan, on the subject of their minute entered on this day's consultation, and to the motion made in consequence by Sir Robert Fletcher. Because they cannot admit that there are any vacancies in the Council, which now consists of Messieurs Stratton, Dawson, Sir Robert Fletcher, Messieurs Brooke, Whitehill, Smith, Johnson, Floyer, Stracey, Hay, Cotsford, Palmer, Jourdan, and Mackay, being two more than the number to which it is limited by the positive orders of the Court of Directors, besides the gentlemen suspended, whose seats in Council cannot be looked upon as vacated 'till the Court of Directors have dismissed them from the service. Because, on the 29th last August, the Board were unanimously of opinion (as will appear by a minute then made, to which we refer) that they could not, without a manifest breach of the Company's orders received by the Grenville, add any new members to the Council; and, in our opinion, there were then stronger reasons for the necessity of increasing the Council than at present. Because the Council, now at the Presidency, are six in number, and if the Governor-General, with three members, (Colonel Monson being ill) can manage the extensive and important concerns committed to them by the State and by the Company, we cannot see why a President and five members here may not transact the Company's affairs of this Presidency. Because, if the misrepresentations of Lord Pigot are good reasons for increasing the Council, they would be equally

so

fo if it consisted of double the number they are at present; as it is not to be doubted but Lord Pigot, in his present situation, would endeavour to make people believe they were influenced by the Nabob; and we have reason to think, that these reports are spread about with a view, not only to create divisions among us, but to induce us to break the Company's positive orders, a deviation from which, we are determined never to consent to, except in cases of absolute necessity, which we do not think exists at present. And here we cannot help expressing our surprise, that any weight should be given to what Lord Pigot or his adherents may say, when the late measures have been so fully and unanimously approved of by the Governor-General and Council, who cannot be supposed to be biassed by any other motive than the public good, whose eagerness to express their sentiments anticipated even the official advices from the present Government, and led them to forward the same to the subordinates in the northern Circars. Because we may have reason to expect that in eight or nine months at farthest some of the Council (now at home) will return, or that we shall receive particular orders from our Honourable Masters on this and other subjects. For all which reasons we hope to stand justified in not consenting to the proposition now before the Board.

A true Copy.

Minute of Sir Robert Fletcher and Mr. Jourdan.

WE cannot but take notice, in reply to the minute of the majority, that the Governor-General and Council is on a very different footing from this Presidency. Important as the concerns intrusted to them are, they are limited to the government of the country, the commerce being intrusted to a separate Council; whilst this Board has the management of the whole, and in addition the members of this Government have many employs to attend to.

A true Copy.

Minute

Minute in anſwer to the above.

THE majority are of opinion, that the Governor-General and Council, conſidering their ſuperintending and controlling power over the Preſidencies of Madras, Bombay, and Bencoolen, have full as much buſineſs to tranſact as the members of this Government.

A true Copy. R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Number 13.

Minutes of Conſultation, 29th Auguſt, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

THE Board taking into conſideration the nomination of proper perſons for the Committee of Circuit, refer to the Company's orders on this ſubject, which are as follows:

Separate letter from England, 12th April, 1775.

" We therefore direct, that when affairs reſpecting Tanjore ſhall " have been accommodated and finally adjuſted, a Committee of our " Council, conſiſting of five members, be appointed to make the " circuit of the Northern Circars, &c."

When the Court of Directors gave theſe orders the Council conſiſted of nineteen, ſo that there were more than ſufficient for carrying on the Company's buſineſs at the Preſidency, for the Chiefſhips and for the Committee of Circuit; the caſe is now altered, for by the late change the Council is reduced to nine members on the Coaſt; two are gone home with leave, viz. Meſſieurs Dawſon and Whitehill, and two others, Meſſieurs Cotsford and Hay, are now in England, and have the leave of the Court of Directors for remaining there another year. The Honourable the Court of Directors, in their commands of the 12th of April, 1775, poſitively direct, that no new member ſhall be taken into Council 'till the numbers are reduced to twelve.

"Although from a variety of circumſtances, it has happened that "our Council at Fort St. George, have never been reduced to the "number of twelve, according to our directions in the year 1769, "nevertheleſs it is our poſitive order, that no future vacancy therein be "filled up by you, even proviſionally, until the Council ſhall be "reduced to the ſaid number twelve, &c." Letter from England, 12 April, 1775, para. 64.

In this ſituation we are under the neceſſity of deviating from the orders of our Honourable Maſters, with reſpect to the Committee of Circuit, or in filling up the Council beyond the number preſcribed, which we think ought not to be done but in caſes of neceſſity; after the moſt mature deliberation on the ſubject, we are unanimouſly of opinion, that three vacancies now in the Committee of Circuit, by the ſuſpenſion of Meſſieurs Ruſſel, Dalrymple, and Lathom, be filled up by Meſſieurs Perring, Daniel, and Craufurd, thoſe gentlemen being near Council, and we are of opinion very capable of ſerving the Company on this important buſineſs. The Committee will then conſiſt of

Meſſrs. Johnſon,
Daniel, Floyer,
Craufurd, Perring.

Mr. Sadleir, the next ſervant on the liſt to Mr. Perring, cannot, we think, be employed until the Board come to a determination on his conduct at Ingeram. Mr. Davidſon has the charge of an employ of great truſt, which cannot, at this time, be transferred to another. Mr. Morgan Williams, the next ſervant on the liſt to Mr. Davidſon, having been many years at Vizagapatam, and well acquainted with the buſineſs of that ſettlement, we think his remaining there will be abſolutely neceſſary, as both the Chief and Second are ordered on the Committee of Circuit.

Mr. John Hollond is next to Mr. Williams, but he is Perſian tranſlator.

Mr. Williams to ſucceed Mr. Perring as Second.

Ordered, That Meſſieurs Perring, Daniel, and Craufurd, be wrote to, adviſing them of their appointments to the Committee of Circuit; that Meſſieurs Craufurd and Daniel be directed to proceed to Vizagapatam, where they will be joined by Meſſieurs Johnſon and Perring.

A true Copy. CHARLES OAKLEY, Secretary.

Number 14.

Circular Letter from the Governor-General and Council to the Subordinacies of the Preſidency of Fort St. George, dated Fort William, the 16th September, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

To Charles Floyer, Eſq; Chief, &c. Council at Maſulipatam.

GENTLEMEN,

WE were extremely alarmed at the information we received of the dangerous diviſions which had taken place in the Council at Fort St. George, of a conſequent ſeparation of a majority of the members from Lord Pigot, and the party which ſupported his violent meaſures, and of the ultimate ſeizure and confinement of his Lordſhip.

Having maturely conſidered the proceedings of George Stratton, Eſq; and the other members of the Council at Fort St. George, compoſing a majority of that government, we are of opinion, that the ſteps which they have been reduced to take, in aſſuming the government, and depriving Lord Pigot, their former Governor, of any powers or ſhare in the adminiſtration of that Preſidency, were juſtified by the neceſſity of the caſe, and we are determined to acknowledge and ſupport their authority, as the only legal and conſtitutional government of Fort St. George. We think it neceſſary to communicate to you our ſentiments and reſolutions on this ſubject; and in order to remove any doubt which

you may have of the part which you ought to take, or of the authority which it is your duty to obey on the present occasion, we transmit you an extract of a general letter received from the Honourable the Court of Directors by the Lioness and Shrewsbury.

We are,

Fort William, Gentlemen,

16th Sept. 1776. Your most obedient servants,

WARREN HASTINGS
J. CLAVERING
RICH$_d$ BARWELL
P. FRANCIS.

A true Copy. R. J. Sulivan, Secretary.

Colonel Stuart's Report of the manner in which he executed the Orders given him in the Minute of Consultation of the 23d August, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant Colonel Capper, 30*th March,* 1777.

AS soon as I had an opportunity of being well informed of the general ground upon which the late majority (who now compose the government) had separated themselves from Lord Pigot and the gentlemen who adhered to him, some particulars of which were signified to the publick, and to me, by the letter of August 23d, directed to me by the Notary Public, Mr. Bromley, I did not hesitate to conclude it my duty to obey their orders; and in this view, I had no difficulty in determining what part I was to act at the time when I received from Mr. Stratton the order contained in their minute of consultation of August 23d. In consequence of the power vested in me by that minute, I forthwith formed the plan of putting this fortress into the possession of what I considered to be the legal government, with as little danger and confusion as

as poſſible. The principal officers of the garriſon and neighbourhood, who, as I ſuppoſe, had received the ſame information, from the proteſt circulated by the Notary Public, Mr. Bromley, gave a ready concurrence on their part to aſſiſt me. It became an object of great importance towards the publick peace of the ſettlement, to ſecure the perſon of Lord Pigot. My own knowledge of the man, and what I heard from others of his violent haſty temper, made his arreſt neceſſary in my opinion, and I had taken meaſures to arreſt him, even in the fort, had it been neceſſary, but I ſhall ever think it a fortunate circumſtance that I was not driven to this neceſſity. After the Fort-Adjutant had delivered to me, by order of Lord Pigot, the general orders of the 23d Auguſt, appointing me to the command of the army, I went in the evening to the Fort Square, at Lord Pigot's deſire, to meet him; we had ſome converſation apart, the ſubſtance of which was, that he conſidered my having received the general orders, without objection, as an acknowledgment of the authority by which they were publiſhed; on my part, without contradicting that poſition, I told his Lordſhip, that I owed to the Court of Directors the obligation of being next in command to Sir Robert Fletcher, and I preſſed his Lordſhip to allow me communication of the records. He gave no preciſe anſwer, but aſked me to ſupper, as he ſaid, with his friend, which I promiſed to do, provided he gave me his word, that nothing of buſineſs ſhould be talked of. Meſſieurs Stone, Dalrymple, Lathom, and the Sub-Secretary, Mr. Baine, were of the party. Next morning, the 24th Auguſt, I thought proper to write Lord Pigot a letter, again requeſting communication of the records, before I was called upon for any executive act as Commander in Chief. This letter I delivered after breakfaſting with him at his Garden-houſe; he read it with ſeeming attention, did not deny the reaſonableneſs of the requeſt, but objected to the manner, as it looked like making a bargain before I conſented to do my duty. He aſked me to dinner, I waited at home from nine o'clock 'till one, in expectation of being called to Council. I then went to the houſe called the Admiralty, and again urged my requeſt, to be informed from the records, of the

grounds

grounds that had given rise to the honour conferred upon me in general orders; I had no answer that gave me any satisfaction. After dinner was over, Lord Pigot asked me to sup; I enquired particularly whether he supped in town or at the Garden-House; he told me, in the country, but that he would see me at six in the Fort Square. About five in the afternoon I received a note from the Sub-Secretary, Mr. Baine, desiring my attendance on Council at six o'clock. By this time I had entirely completed my plan, and had entrusted the execution of it to Lieutenant-Colonel Edingtoun, the Adjutant-General, to Captain Lysaught, then in the garrison, and to Major Horne, commanding the corps of artillery at the Mount. The first gentleman I ordered to post himself at a certain place on the road, with a few Seapoys, to stop the carriage in which he would see Lord Pigot and me, to disperse the attendants, and to arrest Lord Pigot in the name of Government.

I ordered Captain Lysaught to be near at hand with a chaise, and an orderly serjeant, to convey Lord Pigot to Major Horne's, at St. Thomas's Mount, and give him my orders and instructions for the Major. I posted another officer near Lord Pigot's guard, at the Garden-House, to prevent their getting under arms in case of an alarm. Having made this disposition, I went to Council, where Lord Pigot arrived half an hour after six. There were present Messieurs Russell, Dalrymple, Stone, Lathom, Mr. Secretary Sulivan, and Mr. Baine; but they did not seem to be regularly met, or sitting as a Board. Lord Pigot retired with one or two gentlemen for some minutes, and then brought in his hand a parchment, which he called the commission of government, in order to convince me that there was no power in the Council to dismiss or suspend the Governor. There was much conversation upon this and other subjects, which I confess I industriously spun out to gain time 'till it was dark. The utmost efforts of Lord Pigot, and the gentlemen, were used to obtain an avowed acknowledgement of their authority by some publick act on my part; particularly, they desired that I might, as Commander in Chief, direct the Adjutant-General to publish in ge-

neral orders to the army the resolution of Council, whereby Sir Robert Fletcher was put in arrest, and I was appointed to the command. I repeated, at full length, the hardship of obliging me to take this or any other step without giving me communication of the reason of their proceedings, adding, that I considered it as a right peculiar to the officer commanding the forces, who, from his station, is entitled to a seat in Council. Mr. Dalrymple and others, in answer said, it was my duty to obey. I fought off the best way I could, and a great deal of vague conversation followed, the particulars of which very possibly Mr. Secretary Sulivan may recollect. It was now about half an hour after eight, and Lord Pigot had agreed to drive me to the Garden House in his chaise. The Adjutant-General stopped the chaise according to orders, and I told Lord Pigot that he must go with Captain Lysaught, who accordingly delivered him over to Major Horne. I then sent the Adjutant-General to the house where the seven members of Council were assembled, to acquaint them that every thing was ready for their reception in the Fort Square. I returned myself to the Fort, where I found every one in the best disposition to acknowledge their authority.

I do not take any minute notice here of Mr. Russell's conduct, in attempting to give orders to the main-guard in my presence, and in the presence of almost all the officers in the garrison. I was under the necessity of forcing him from the parade, in order to bring him before Council, where I wished he should remain 'till he heard what I had to say upon the occasion, the particulars of which appear upon the minutes of consultation of the 24th at night.

The Board having information that underhand practices were made use of to draw the soldiery from their duty, which they had reason to believe were encouraged by the local residence of Lord Pigot, they empowered me to take such measures as I thought proper to remove his Lordship to Chingleput.

On

On the 26th I ordered Major Cook thither to receive his Lordſhip, and to provide the neceſſary things for his Lordſhip's convenience; and on the 27th I alſo ordered Lieutenant-Colonel Edingtoun to proceed to St. Thomas's Mount, and concert meaſures with Major Horne, that, with the leaſt noiſe and diſturbance to the ladies of Lord Pigot's family, he might be conveyed in a chaiſe along with Lieutenant-Colonel Edingtoun to Chingleput. As to what paſſed on this occaſion, I refer to Lieutenant Colonel Edingtoun and Serjeant Shaw's affidavits.

I cannot cloſe this narrative without adding my ſatisfaction at having had an opportunity, in preſence of the Council and of all the officers of the garriſon aſſembled on the 24th at night, to declare my ſentiments upon the nature of a free government under the auſpices of the Britiſh Conſtitution, that it conſiſted in the due ſubordination of the military to the civil power. This declaration I made in the name of all the officers of the garriſon then preſent, to which they unanimouſly aſſented. Were it neceſſary to bring additional proofs of my real ſentiments at this criſis, I might refer to my converſation in preſence of a large company, next day aſſembled at dinner at the Governor's in the Fort Square, and the public toaſt I gave on that occaſion, unanimouſly approved by the civil and military ſervants then preſent; it was, "Juſtice to the army, "while ſubordinate to the civil power."

Though a ſoldier upwards of 29 years ſtanding, I have never one moment loſt ſight of the bleſſings of civil liberty, and I ſhall ever eſteem it the moſt honourable and moſt fortunate circumſtance in my life, to have been in any degree the inſtrument of recovering the legal authority of the Company's Repreſentatives, and I am ready to riſk my all to ſupport and maintain the eſtabliſhed conſtitution, according to my oath of fidelity as a ſervant of the Honourable Company.

JAMES STUART.

A true Copy, R. J. Sulivan, Secretary.

Declaration

Declaration of Mr. Bromley, Notary-Publick.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper 30th March, 1777.

ON this day, being Wednesday the eleventh of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six, I Charles Bromley, of Fort St. George, in the East-Indies, Notary-Publick, Do declare, that on Friday the 23d day of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six, did, as Notary-Publick, at the request of George Stratton, Sir Robert Fletcher, Henry Brooke, Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer, Francis Jourdan, and George Mackay Esquires, of Council of Fort St. George, deliver a declaration in writing, under the hands of the said gentlemen, unto the Honourable George Lord Pigot, addressed to the said George Lord Pigot, Claud Russell, Alexander Dalrymple, and John Maxwell Stone of Council, Esquires, which said writing the said George Lord Pigot did receive. That some time after, on the same day, he, this declarant, did, at the directions of the said George Stratton Esq; &c. Gentlemen of Council aforementioned, leave sundry attested copies of such declaration with many of the inhabitants both civil and military of Fort St. George. That soon after such service, the said George Lord Pigot sent (being the afternoon of the same day) for this declarant, who went to his Lordship, when his Lordship, being in a room by himself, did, in a most violent manner, threaten this declarant with an immediate imprisonment for daring to serve these attested copies of the said George Stratton, &c. declaration, and insisted on this deponent giving up his, this deponent's, instructions, and that in case this declarant did not discover and disclose the particulars of his instructions, to prison this declarant must go, being a sower of sedition and mutiny. Upon this deponent's declaring, that what he had done was in consequence of his duty as Notary-Publick, and not contrary to law; to which his Lordship replied, then damn him, this declarant should go to prison, and not tell him about law; and that he would send for the Sheriff and put this declarant into his custody. This declarant acquainted

quainted his Lordſhip, that the Sheriff, as this declarant then ſtood, was of no conſequence to this declarant; his Lordſhip anſwered, that he would ſee into that, and ſpeak to his Council that were then ſitting, but directed this declarant to ſtay until his and their pleaſure were known. Soon after this declarant was called in, and the Board ſeated, compoſed of his Lordſhip, Claud Ruſſell, Alexander Dalrymple, John Maxwell Stone, and Richard Lathom Eſquires, where this declarant was aſked by his Lordſhip, how he preſumed to write theſe circulatory declarations and notices in the garriſon; that what the declarant had done was in open defiance of his Government, which was then at that time a military one, as his Lordſhip pronounced; and that according to the articles of war, which articles were produced by one of the gentlemen preſent, and expatiated upon by Mr. Alexander Dalrymple, † that the declarant came under them as a ſower of ſedition, and a perſon who ſpread mutiny among the men, and therefore neceſſary, for the good of the whole, to ſend the declarant to priſon, which the declarant was apprehenſive of from their ignorance of the buſineſs. As no one argument was advanced by the Board, then ſitting, in ſupport of their aſſertions, this declarant was told by his Lordſhip, and aſſented to by the gentlemen preſent, they ſeconding his Lordſhip, that unleſs this declarant would give up the authority they ſuppoſed this declarant received from George Stratton Eſq; &c. this declarant muſt be confined. This declarant informed his Lordſhip and the Board, that they were at liberty to diſpoſe of his perſon as they thought proper, but his ſentiments would be ſtill the ſame reſpecting his duty, a part of which was to keep ſecret and not diſcloſe the truſt repoſed in him by his employers; this declarant further informing the Board, that the gentlemen, who had ſet their names to the declaration delivered in to his Lordſhip in the morning by this declarant, would, at any time, acknowledge in Court and out, whenever called upon, that their names thereto affixed were of their own reſpective hand-writing, and that he, this deponent, would alſo, at any time, and in any place, aſſert the ſame. This deponent being ſtill kept at the Council-Board, hearing their arguments, and, amongſt the reſt,

† Mmm Mr.

Mr. Alexander Dalrymple did obferve, that this declarant would abfcond, and therefore neceffary he, this declarant, fhould be either confined or give fome fecurity ; all which the declarant protefted againft, as unbecoming his character both in his public and private ftation, and did advance, that his, the declarant's circumftances were too confiderable to leave behind ; but, to obviate a difficulty, this deponent did pledge his word and honour not to leave the Fort or it's diftricts without leave of that Board.—This obfervation of Mr. Alexander Dalrymple, and the declarant's offer, occafioned fome deliberations which ended in favour of this declarant, whom his Lordfhip faid he would difmifs on this declarant's promife of being forth-coming, whenever his Lordfhip and that Board fhould call upon him.—Upon this deponent's engaging fo to do, this deponent was difmiffed.

CHA. BROMLEY, Not. Publ.

A true Copy, R. J. Sulivan, Secretary.

Letter from George Stratton, &c. Council to Major Horne, dated Fort St. George, 15th September, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

To Major Horne, commanding at the Mount.

SIR,

THE Prefident has laid before us your letter dated yefterday, acquainting him that you had again fpoke to his Lordfhip of the inconveniency the Secretaries fuffered from the want of the public papers, but that you did not find his Lordfhip in the leaft inclined to fend any perfon, on his behalf, to felect them from his private ones ; that Mr. Dalrymple would have brought his papers away, but was not fuffered, and that the room being fealed up was not his doing.

In anfwer to the above, we are to defire you will acquaint his Lordfhip, that on the 25th of laft month, Meffieurs Dalrymple and

2 Stone

Stone came to the Fort House, and in going into the room where his Lordship usually wrote, were told by the President in presence of Messieurs Brooke and Floyer, and afterwards of Colonel Stuart, that as they conceived Lord Pigot's private papers in that room were intermixed with those of a public nature; it was proposed to them, that whenever it should be convenient to those gentlemen, or to any other whom Lord Pigot might appoint, the Secretaries would attend them to select the public papers that were there; in the mean time, the President recommended to Messieurs Dalrymple and Stone, to put Lord Pigot's seal on the doors with that of the President, to prevent any person whatever from going there, until the papers and effects of his Lordship were removed, to which proposition Messieurs Dalrymple and Stone readily assenting, Mr. Dalrymple took Lord Pigot's seal out of his pocket, with which he sealed every door which had communication with that apartment; the President then affixed his seal also in the presence of the above named gentlemen, and they continue in that state to this day. The President then declared to these gentlemen, that he had made it a point not to go before into that or the adjoining room.

When you have represented the foregoing circumstances to Lord Pigot, we hope he will see with us the necessity of his desiring any gentleman to select his own papers, and that the public ones may be delivered over to us.

We understand from Mr. Majendie, Clerk to the Committee of Treasury, that Lord Pigot informed him that one of the keys of the Treasury was among his papers, which we are to request his Lordship will also direct to be delivered up to us.

We are, Sir,

Your most obedient servants,

Fort St. George,
15th September, 1776.

GEORGE STRATTON, &c. Council.

P. S.

P. S. We are alſo to deſire you will acquaint Lord Pigot, that we this * evening reſolved to diſpatch the ſhip Grenville to England, on the 20th inſtant.

A true Copy. R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Letter from George Stratton, Eſq; &c. Council, to Major Horne, dated Fort St. George, 17th September, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

To Major Horne, commanding at the Mount.

SIR,

WE are to deſire that you will communicate to Lord Pigot the accompanying copies of a letter to us from Mr. Paul Benfield, with our anſwer thereto; and ſhould his Lordſhip be deſirous of having copies of them, you will furniſh him accordingly.

We are, Sir,

Your moſt obedient ſervants,

Fort St. George, the 17th September, 1776.

GEORGE STRATTON, &c. Council.

A true Copy, R. J. Sulivan, Secretary.

Letter from George Stratton, Eſq; &c. Council, to Major Horne, dated Fort St. George 18th September, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

To Major Matthew Horne, commanding at the Mount.

SIR,

WE have received your letter of yeſterday.

Since Lord Pigot has informed you, that he believes there are no other publick papers with his own, except the general letter from the Company by the Triton, of which we have a duplicate, and ſome ſe-

* N. B. *The Conſultation of the 15th of September, is not contained in the book received from Colonel Capper.*

cret

cret instructions from the Court of Directors respecting their homeward-bound ships. We desire you will signify to his Lordship, he is at liberty to send any person to remove his private papers and effects whenever he shall think proper, and that we shall rely on his Lordship delivering up all those of a publick nature.

We are, Sir,

Fort St. George, 28th September, 1776.

Your most obedient servants,

GEORGE STRATTON, &c. Council.

P. S. We desire you will acquaint his Lordship, that the consultations at which he presided are ready for signing, and that, if it be agreeable to him, the Secretaries will accordingly attend him with the consultations for that purpose.

A true Copy. R. J. Sulivan, Secretary.

Return of Ordnance and Stores at Tanjore for the Month of June, 1776.

Qualities.	Remains 31ft May	Received	Iſſued	For what ſervice, and by whoſe order.	Remains 30th June
Braſs guns and carr. 6 pounders	4	—	—	— —	4
Tumbrils — — —	4	—	—	— —	4
Round ſhot fix'd, 6 pounders	424	—	—	— —	424
Grape do. do. do.	76	—	—	— —	76
Flannel cartridges, do.	79	—	—	— —	79
Do. empty bags do.	99	—	—	— —	99
Cloth do. do. do.	140	—	128	For his Majeſty's birth-day, &c. Colonel Harper	12
Tubes filled do.	932	—	128	Do. do. do. do. do. do.	804
Port fires — — —	208	—	18	Do. do. do. do. do. do.	190
Match — — —	—	—	—	— —	—
Europe Sks.	12	—	—	— —	12
Cotton — do.	15	—	—	— —	15
Country — do.	18	50	9	For the uſe of the garri. do. do.	59
Tube boxes with ſtraps	4	—	—	— —	4
Port fire ſticks — —	4	—	—	— —	4
Claw hammers — —	4	—	—	— —	4
Pinchers — pairs	4	—	—	— —	4
Priming wires and bitts, each	4	—	—	— —	4
Round, ragged, and ſpring ſpikes, each	4	—	—	— —	4
Relieves for do. —	4	—	—	— —	4
Aprons, lead — —	4	—	—	— —	4
Spunges — — —	—	—	—	— —	—
12 pounders —	2	—	—	— —	2
6 do. — —	14	—	—	— —	14
3 do. — —	2	—	—	— —	2
Ladles — —		—	—	— —	—
12 pounders —	2	—	—	— —	2
6 — —	4	—	—	— —	4
3 — —	2	—	—	— —	2
Haverſacks and buckets, each	8	—	—	— —	8
Drag ropes — prs.	4	—	—	— —	4
Tompions with collars	4	—	—	— —	4
Padlocks with keys	12	—	—	— —	12
Handſpikes — —		—	—	— —	
Traverſing	8	—	—	— —	8
Purchaſing	8	—	—	— —	8
Tarpaulins — —	—	—	—	— —	—
Large — —	2	—	—	— —	2

Tarpaulins

Qualities.		Remains 31ſt May	Received	Iſſued	For what ſervice, and by whoſe order.	Remains 30th June
Tarpaulins						
Gun		4	—	—	—	4
Tumbril		4	—	—	—	4
Greaſe	dupprs.	$1\frac{3}{4}$	—	$\frac{1}{4}$	For the uſe of the carriages, Storekeeper	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Tar	do.	$1\frac{3}{4}$	—	$\frac{1}{4}$		$1\frac{1}{2}$
Spare yokes		—	—	—	—	—
Single		4	—	—	—	4
Double		12	—	—	—	12
Country rope		—	—	—	—	—
$4\frac{1}{2}$ inch	coil	$\frac{1}{2}$	—	—	—	$\frac{1}{2}$
$3\frac{1}{2}$ do.	do.	$3\frac{1}{2}$	—	—	—	$3\frac{1}{2}$
$2\frac{1}{2}$ do.	do.	$1\frac{1}{4}$	—	—	—	$1\frac{1}{4}$
Twine		—	—	—	—	—
Europe	ſkn.	5	—	1	For mending tarpaulin, Storek.	4
Bengal	do.	4	—	—	—	4
Country	lb.	4	—	1	For coating of ſpunges, do.	3
Small coir for laſhing bundles.		3	—	—	—	3
Sinnet	fath.	30	—	5	For coating of ſpunges	25
Spun-yarn	balls	$7\frac{1}{2}$	—	—	—	$7\frac{1}{2}$
Private tents		2	—	—	—	2
Gun flags		1	—	—	—	1
Hambro' line	ſks.	$3\frac{3}{4}$	—	—	—	$3\frac{3}{4}$
Marline	do.	12	—	—	—	12
A park line		1	—	—	—	1
Do. pickets ſhod		12	—	—	—	12
Gun ſcrapers		2	—	—	—	2
Gun ſearchers		3	—	—	—	3
Do. fiſhes		3	—	—	—	3
Artificers cart		1	—	—	—	1
Steel, country		1	—	1	For repairing ſcrapers and ſearchers, Storekeeper	—
Felling axes		3	—	—	—	3
Hand do.		3	—	—	—	3
Hand hammers		3	—	—	—	3
Anvil		1	—	—	—	1
Pick axes		1	—	—	—	1
Bill hooks		6	—	—	—	6
Mamolies		15	—	—	—	15
Handſaws		2	—	—	—	2
Country do. large		1	—	—	—	1

Qualities.		Remains 31ſt May	Received	Iſſued	For what ſervice, and by whoſe orders.	Remains 30th June
Raſps		2	—	—	— —	2
Bench vice		1	—	—	— —	1
Hand vice		1	—	—	— —	1
Augers		4	—	—	— —	4
Gimblets		4	—	—	— —	4
Sledge hammers		1	—	—	— —	1
Plains		2	—	—	— —	2
Bellows	pairs	4	—	—	— —	4
Spare axle-trees		2	—	—	— —	2
Dammers	lb.	3	—	—	— —	3
Chalk	lb.	—	6	—	— —	6
Solder	lb.	4	—	—	— —	4
Borax	lb.	1	—	—	— —	1
Canvas	yards	34	—	4	For the repairing of tarpaulins, Storekeeper	30
Wax cloth	piece	1	—	—	— —	1
White cloth	do.	5	—	3	For making cartridge bags, Colonel Harper	2
Blue do.	do.	2	—	—	— —	2
Gunny	do.	8	—	—	— —	8
Do. bags		37	—	—	— —	37
Europe hydes		$\frac{3}{4}$	—	—	— —	$\frac{3}{4}$
Sciſſars	pairs	7	—	—	— —	7
Laboratory knives		6	—	—	— —	6
Palms		7	—	—	— —	7
Needles		—	—	—	— —	—
Sail		12	—	—	— —	12
Gunny		5	—	—	— —	5
Small		53	—	—	— —	53
Cotton thread	lb.	4	—	1	For making cartridges, Colonel Harper	3
Bees wax	lb.	1	—	$\frac{1}{2}$	Do. do. do.	$\frac{1}{2}$
Rattan bundles		$\frac{1}{2}$	—	—	— —	$\frac{1}{2}$
Lanthorn		2	—	1	For the uſe of the Commanding Officer, Col. Harper	1
Wax candles	md.	$\frac{1}{2}$	—	—	— —	$\frac{1}{2}$
Cocoanut oil	ſeers.	1	—	1	For the uſe of elevating ſcrews, &c. Storekeeper	
Linſeed oil	gall.	$\frac{1}{2}$	—	$\frac{1}{4}$	For making of the guns, Colonel Harper.	$\frac{1}{4}$

Qualities.		Remains 31st May	Received	Issued	For what service, and by whose orders.	Remains 30th June
Spanish white —	lb.	6	—	—	— —	6
White lead —	lb.	—	3	2	For the marking of the guns, Colonel Harper	1
Scales and compasses	sets	1	—	—	— —	1
Musket ball cartridges	—	45055	—	3356	To the European and Seapoys, Colonel Harper	41699
Carbine do. —	—	2000	—	—	— —	2000
Musket flints —	—	1966	—	1185	To the European and Seapoys, do.	781
Carbine do. —	—	200	—	—	— —	200
Musket blunt cartridges	—	76174	—	36760	To the European and Sea poys, do.	39414
Loose musket balls	—	36	17666	—	From the European and Seapoys	17702
Drum heads —	—	10	—	—	— —	10
Sticks —	prs.	6	—	—	— —	6
Cords —	—	17	—	—	— —	17
Braces —	sets	24	—	—	— —	24
Snares —	do.	23	—	—	— —	23
Paper, country —	reams	12½	—	—	— —	12½
Copper hoops —	—	14	—	—	— —	14
Europe powder —	lb.	108	—	—	— —	108
Nabob's do. —	do.	30	460	490	For the use of the morning and evening guns, and Colonel Harper	—
Iron shot 26 pound.	—	—	64	—	— —	64
20 do. —	—	—	170	—	— —	170
12 do. —	—	—	117	—	— —	117
Shells 13 inch —	—	—	11	—	— —	11
8 do. —	—	—	1	—	Found in the garrison —	1
5½ do. —	—	—	13	—	— —	13
4½ do. —	—	—	1	—	— —	1
Iron grape of sorts	—	—	2550	—	— —	2550
Stone shot, do. —	—	—	15873	—	— —	15873

HENRY BROOKE, Military Storekeeper.

Present State of Ordnance and Stores in the Garrison of Tanjore, 13th August, 1776.

Qualities.	Quantity	Qualities.	Quantity
Detachment.		Tompions with collars	4
Brass guns, 6 pounders	4	Padlocks with keys —	12
Carriages with limbers	4	Handspikes,	
Tumbrils —	4	Traversing	8
Round shot fixed, 6 pounders	424	Purchasing	8
Grape ditto ditto	96	Tarpaulins,	
Flannel cartridges ditto	79	Large —	2
Ditto empty bags —	99	Gun —	4
Cloth ditto —	146	Tumbril	4
Tubes filled —	802	Dupper's grease and tar, each	1½
Port fires — —	190	Yokes,	
Match,		Single —	4
Europe — fks.	12	Double —	12
Cotton — ditto	15	Country rope,	
Country — ditto	54	4½ inch coils	½
Tube boxes —	4	3½ ditto ditto	3½
Claw hammers —	4	2½ ditto ditto	1¼
Pinchers — prs.	4	Small coir for lashing bundles	3
Prickers and bitts, each	4	Sinnet — lb.	25
Spikes,		Twine,	
Round —	4	Europe — fks.	4
Ragged —	4	Bengal — ditto	4
Spring —	4	Country — lb.	3
Reliefs for ditto —	4	Spun yarn — balls	4½
Aprons of lead —	4	Private tents —	2
Spunges,		Gun flag —	1
12 pounders	2	Hambro' line — fks.	3¾
6 ditto —	14	Marline — ditto	12
3 ditto —	2	Parkline — ditto	1
Ladles,		Ditto pickets (shod)	12
12 pounders	2	Gun scrapers —	2
6 ditto —	4	Ditto searchers —	3
3 ditto —	2	Ditto fishers —	3
Haversacks and buckets each	8	Artificer's cart —	1
Drag ropes — prs.	4	Felling axes —	3

Continued.

Qualities.		Quantity	Qualities.		Quantity
Hand axes		3	Lanthorn		1
Sledge hammers		1	Wax candles	md.	¼
Hand ditto		3	Cocoanut oil	ſeers	5
Anvil		1	Linſeed oil	galls.	
Pickaxes		1	Wood oil	ditto	2
Bill hooks		6	White lead	lb.	3
Mamolies		15	Indigo	ditto	4
Hand ſaws		2	Scales and weights	ſets	1
Country ditto, large		1	Muſket ball cartridges		41662
Raſps		2	Carbine ditto ditto		2000
Bench vice		1	Looſe muſket balls		17727
Hand ditto		1	Muſket flints, field		702
Augers		4	Carbine ditto ditto		200
Gimblets		4	Blunt cartridges		39414
Planes		2	Drum ſticks	pairs	6
Bellows	prs.	4	Cords		17
Spare axle-trees		2	Snares	ſets	23
Dammer	lb.	3	Braces	ditto	24
Chalk	ditto	6	Country paper	reams	12½
Solder	ditto	4	Cooper hooks		14
Borax	ditto	1			
Canvas	yards	30	Garriſon.		
Wax cloth	pieces	1			
White ditto	ditto	2	Iron guns,		
Blue ditto	ditto	2	26 pounder		3
Gunny	pieces	8	20 ditto		4
Ditto bags		37	16 ditto		2
Europe hydes		¼	12 ditto		6
Sciſſars	pairs	7	10 ditto		7
Laboratory knives		6	9 ditto		2
Palms		7	8 ditto		6
Needles,			6 ditto		21
Sail		12	5¼ ditto		8
Gunny		5	4 ditto		7
Small		53	3 ditto		6
Cotton thread	lb.	3	2 ditto		9
Rattan	bundles	6	1 ditto		14

Swivels

Continued.

Qualities.	Quantity	Qualities.	Quantity
Swivels ½ pounder	14	A number of chests full of powder	
Brass guns,			
20 ditto	1	Mamolies	900
5¼ ditto	1	Iron crows	50
4 ditto	1	Bill hooks	100
2 ditto	2	Malabar gun,	
1½ ditto	1	22 inches	1
1 ditto	2	19½ ditto	1
Small brass guns unserviceable	11	16½ ditto	1
		11½ ditto	1
Brass mortars,		9½ ditto	1
13 inch	1	8½ ditto	1
10 ditto	1	8 ditto	1
8 ditto	1	5 ditto	1
5½ ditto	1	9 ditto	1
Iron mortars, 8 inch	1	Iron Shells,	
Garrison carriages without wheels, repairable	49	13 inch	11
		8 ditto	1
Ditto with wheels, ditto	24	5½ ditto	13
Truck carriages, ditto	8	4½ ditto	1
Spare wheels, ditto —	39	Iron shot,	
Gunpowder a great quantity		26 pounder	64
Saltpetre ditto		20 ditto	170
Sulphur ditto		12 ditto	117
A quantity of coarse quick match unserviceable		Iron grape of sorts	2550
		Stone shot of different Calibres	15750
A number of empty chests		Ditto shells ditto ditto	172

HENRY BROOKE, Military Storekeeper.

Letter

Letter from Mr. Benfield.

To the Honourable George Stratton, Esq. President and Governor, &c. Council of Fort St. George, dated 8th September, 1776.

Received over-land by Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

Honourable Sir and Sirs,

HAVING never given cause to Lord Pigot to draw his resentment on me, I was at a loss to find out the reason why his Lordship was induced to take measures against me so injurious to my credit and fortune as have been represented by me to the Board; I now clearly perceive that his views in so doing were interested, and that it was his own good, not that of the Company, he pursued in those measures during his late administration. As a servant to the Company, and wishing to bring to light the true motives of Lord Pigot's publick conduct, as well as in justice to myself, I take this occasion to inform your Honour, &c. that I have arrived at the knowledge of certain transactions of the late President Lord Pigot, such as his obtaining very large sums of money, jewels, and plate, to a great amount, from Indian Princes, contrary to covenants and the repeated orders of the Company, and which constitute him guilty of infringement of the late Act of Parliament.

As I am resolved to take every legal method, by prosecution or otherwise, here and in England, to prove beyond a doubt this delinquency and breach of public trust in his Lordship; and as I shall have occasion to apply to the Honourable Board to obtain certain evidences residing within the bounds of Tanjore, or in places belonging to his Highness the Nabob of the Carnatic, I trust I shall meet with your assistance and support.

I have thought it my duty not only to make those representations to your Honour, &c. but that they may be known to Lord Pigot himself,

against whom I mean to commence prosecutions before the Courts competent in those cases.

Madras, 8th September, 1776,

I am, with respect,
Honourable Sir and Sirs,
Your obedient humble servant,
PAUL BENFIELD.

A true Copy. R. J. Sulivan, Secretary.

Letter from George Stratton, &c. Council, to Mr. Benfield, dated Fort St. George, 17th September, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

To Mr. Paul Benfield.

SIR,

YESTERDAY we received your letter dated the 8th instant, and are at a loss to understand what you mean by the words *obtaining evidences.* The only way in which we can act is this, to recommend to the Princes in alliance with the Honourable Company to permit such of their subjects to come here as may be necessary to give evidence in any suits you may judge it proper to prefer against Lord Pigot, without interfering in any other respect either by our authority or influence.

We shall transmit copy of your letter, with our answer, to Major Horne, in order that he may communicate the same to Lord Pigot.

We are, Sir,

Fort St. George, 17th September, 1776.

Your most obedient servants,
GEORGE STRATTON, &c. Council.

A true Copy. R. J. Sulivan, &c. Secretary.

Translation

Translation of a Maratta Letter from the Rajah of Tanjore to the Honourable George Stratton, Esq. President and Governor, &c. Council at Fort St. George, dated 8th September, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

I SENT some cloths as a present, with a letter to your Honour, which you was pleased to accept of with great kindness; and, at the same time, your Honour was pleased to tell my Vackeels, Treumbaga, Saumbajee, and Rudrajee Pundat, that you would assist in all affairs of my Government. This particular news my Vackeels wrote to me, and also Colonel Harper acquainted me particularly with all news you wrote to him, by which I was so overjoyed that I cannot express it in my letter.

I am established in the Government by the protection of the Honourable Company, and they bear the heaviness of supporting me with sincere kindness. In all respects I depend on them, without taking any further consideration concerning my Government-affairs, which must be settled by your assistance and protection.

The Anracu't, or bank of the river Cavary, has been broke, which to repair, and to encourage the inhabitants of the country to carry on the cultivating business, will cost me one Lack of Pagodas, which sum I beg of the Honourable Company to lend me. The Poligars disturb the people in my country; I must take the trouble to reprimand them, and bring them into a proper way.

Concerning the above-mentioned three different affairs I wrote to my Vackeels, in order to explain them to your Honour in a particular manner.

I hope you will be pleased to take these affairs into your serious consideration, and get them done according to my Vackeels request. They will

will always attend on your Honour, and will apply to you for all the affairs of my Government.

I am as your youngest brother, and I shall not forget any of your kindnesses as long as I live; you are very sensible of this; I need not acquaint you of any thing further of my affairs.

What can I say more?

A true Copy. R. J. Sulivan, Secretary.

Translation of a Maratta Letter from Tuljaujee, Maharajah of Tanjore, to the Honourable George Stratton, Esq. President and Governor, &c. Council of Fort St. George, dated the 15th September, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

I AM to acquaint your Honour, &c. Gentlemen, that I have received your favour dated the 10th instant, which I have perused and am greatly rejoiced at it. I cannot mention in this letter what joy I felt on perusing of it. I find continually your Honours intend by several means to shew favour and assistance to all the subjects of my Government. As my Government was settled by the favour and assistance of the Honourable Company, all the honour and credit which they do me ought to be their's. I am informed by your letter of all the affairs which you intend doing for me in future; on being informed of this; I am perfectly satisfied, and carry in my mind all the favours that were done by the Honourable Company hitherto. I wish always that your favour and assistance to me may be encreased daily. You are sensible of every thing.

What can I say more?

A true Copy. R. J. SULIVAN, Secretary.

Extract

Extract of General Letter from George Stratton, Henry Brooke, Esquires, Sir Robert Fletcher, Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer, Francis Jourdan, and George Mackay, Esquires, dated Fort St. George, 21st September, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, 30th March, 1777.

21. MR. FLOYER, whom your Honours were pleased to appoint Chief of Mazulipatam in succession to Mr. Whitehill, arrived here on the Greenwich. Mr. Whitehill had some months before obtained leave to go home, and the Chiefship being vacant on Mr. Floyer's arrival, that gentleman immediately made application to go down to Mazulipatam in consequence of your appointment. Lord Pigot positively refused his concurrence, observing that he had received information of some great abuses which had crept into the management of the Company's affairs at Mazulipatam, and that until these were enquired into and remedied he could not assent to Mr. Floyer's going down. — Civil Department. Consult. 7th June.

22. On the 21st June Mr. Floyer was formally appointed to the Chiefship in consequence of your orders, Lord Pigot minuting upon the occasion, that he was of opinion your Honours had made "An "improper appointment, not only in the manner in which it had been "done, but as it was an injury to Mr. Floyer's seniors."

23. Mr. Floyer was still detained here in expectation that Lord Pigot would lay before the Board the information he had mentioned relative to the abuses existing at Mazulipatam. His Lordship took no steps for this purpose until the 9th of August, when he laid before the Board a draught of a letter which he had prepared for Mazulipatam, containing the substance of what he meant to offer on the subject of those abuses. On reference to it we doubt not your Honours will be equally disappointed with ourselves to find there was nothing mentioned by the President of any importance, or which ought to have detained — Revenue Department. Consult. 9th August.

Mr. Floyer a moment from his Chiefſhip.—The Chief and Council at Mazulipatam will be directed to enquire into the ſubject of the letter propoſed by Lord Pigot to be ſent to that Settlement, and Mr. Floyer himſelf will go down to take charge of the Chiefſhip after the departure of the Grenville.

28. In our conſultation of the 28th June your Honours will find a minute entered by Lord Pigot, urging a variety of reaſons to ſhew the propriety of appointing a Chief and Council at Tanjore, recommending that meaſure in the ſtrongeſt terms to the Board, and propoſing Mr. Ruſſell to be Chief, and three other gentlemen, whom he named, to be of the Council. As we had received no previous information from Lord Pigot of this deſign, and had not ourſelves the moſt diſtant idea that ſuch a plan would ever be recommended to the Board, we expreſſed our ſurprize at the ſudden manner in which it had been introduced, and requeſted Lord Pigot would not deſire us to come to an haſty deciſion, but permit us to conſider the ſubject well before we gave our opinions. His Lordſhip, notwithſtanding, preſſed us in the ſtrongeſt manner for an immediate determination; and there appearing to us no other means of avoiding it than by a previous queſtion, Sir Robert Fletcher made a motion to that effect; but Lord Pigot, contrary to all rule, would not ſuffer it to be put, ſtill urging us to give an opinion upon his propoſal. At length an expedient was found out to relieve us. Mr. Dawſon had, before this time, been excuſed attending Council on account of his health, and the preparations he was making for his voyage to Europe, but at the particular requeſt of the Preſident he came to the Board on that day. Lord Pigot obſerved, that conſidering Mr. Dawſon's ſituation, he could not with any propriety deſire his attendance again; and mentioned this as one reaſon why he wiſhed us to come to an immediate deciſion. Mr. Dawſon thereupon expreſſing his readineſs to attend the Board at any future time that might be appointed for taking the Preſident's propoſal into conſideration, we were by this means only enabled to gain a reſpite of a few days.

29. On

29. On the 8th July the matter was again brought before us, and Mr. Dawſon again attended for this purpoſe only. The Preſident put the queſtion for the appointment of a Chief and Council at Tanjore, which was thrown out by a majority. He then moved, that Mr. Ruſſell might be appointed Reſident at Tanjore, and carried the queſtion by his caſting voice.

30. For the opinions of the ſeveral members on theſe queſtions we beg leave to refer to our minutes.

31. Your Honours, on reading this part of our proceedings, will no doubt particularly notice the great impropriety and indecency of Lord Pigot's conduct, in urging the Council to decide upon matters of ſuch great importance, without allowing them any time to conſider and reflect upon the conſequences. A procedure of this kind, if authoriſed and encouraged, would deſtroy every purpoſe of a Council, which is inſtituted expreſsly to deliberate with care and attention upon every meaſure that is propoſed; had not an expedient, which proved convenient to his Lordſhip, been found out to relieve us, one of theſe alternatives would have happened; either we muſt have been forced to give our opinions totally unprepared, or we muſt have ſat at the Council Board until we had made ourſelves maſters of the ſubject; which, conſidering it's importance, and the neceſſity of referring to records, could not be in leſs than two or three days; or, laſtly, we muſt have endeavoured to compel his Lordſhip to give us time, and that could not have been done without proceeding to the laſt extremities, ſince he had refuſed poſitively to put a previous queſtion, or to liſten to any propoſal for an adjournment. The ſituation to which we were reduced was very diſtreſſing; and we mention our conduct in this inſtance as a ſtrong proof, amongſt many others, of our forbearance and moderation towards Lord Pigot.

32. The propoſed appointment of a Chief and Council, and in failure of that, a Reſident at Tanjore, upon which Lord Pigot required ſo

ſo haſty an opinion from us, has fallen under the particular notice of the Governor-General and Council of Bengal, as you will perceive by the late letter from them, to which we have referred in our addreſs from the Military department. In that letter the opinions of the Governor and Council unanimouſly confirm the propriety of the reaſons urged for oppoſing the meaſure.

Military department, 26th Auguſt.

33. Mr. Charles Mordaunt, one of your civil ſervants, having upon the arreſt of Lord Pigot written a letter, wherein he refuſed to acknowledge the preſent Government, we were under the neceſſity of ſuſpending him from the Company's ſervice until your pleaſure be known.

29th Auguſt.

34. Your Honours will find in our conſultations from the other department a letter addreſſed to us by thirty-eight of your civil ſervants at the Preſidency, declaring their ſentiments on the late act by which Lord Pigot was put in arreſt, and diveſted of the office of Preſident of the Council; they take upon themſelves in this letter to deny the legality of the g vernment, to cenſure and proteſt againſt our proceedings; nevertheleſs they make a *voluntary offer* of their ſervices to us in their ſeveral ſtations until your pleaſure can be ſignified upon our conduct.

35. We confeſs it was a matter of ſome ſurprize to us to obſerve our proceedings arraigned in terms ſo diſreſpectful by any of your ſervants; but our ſurprize was much increaſed, when, upon reference to the liſt, we found that the greateſt part of the gentlemen who ſubſcribed this remonſtrance were very young ſervants of the Company.

36. In whatever light our conduct might have appeared to theſe Gentlemen, we did imagine their duty to you would have induced them to reſpect our authority, and to obey our orders with chearfulneſs and alacrity; particularly at this time, when a zealous and firm union amongſt the ſervants of the Company becomes ſo neceſſary to remove the effects of thoſe violent proceedings by which the conſtitution of the

government

government was deſtroyed, and the whole powers of the Company aſſumed by a ſingle perſon.

37. Your Honours will no doubt remark how exceedingly improper it is in any of your junior ſervants to condemn, cenſure, and proteſt againſt any act of their ſuperiors in which they are not concerned, and for which they are no ways reſponſible; ſuch conduct can only tend by ill example, to deſtroy all ſubordination, and produce infinite difficulties in the management of your affairs; and you will accordingly find in the inſtance before us, that it has had this effect in a great degree already.

38. A few days after the remonſtrance was delivered in, the Preſident received an official letter from Mr. Robert Duncan Munro, one of the gentlemen who had ſigned it, which was addreſſed in the following words: "*To Mr. George Stratton, who ſtiles himſelf Preſident of the Council and Governor of Fort St. George.*" The Preſident conſidering this ſtep as raſh and ill adviſed, took great pains, by means of Mr. Munro's friends, to make him ſenſible of the impropriety of his conduct; but he ſtill perſiſted he was right, and would not alter the form of the addreſs. 13th Sept.

39. The mode of proceeding which you have laid down for the trial of offences committed by your ſervants, is to furniſh them with a copy of the charge againſt them in writing, and to give them a reaſonable time to anſwer it; but this can only be obſerved in caſes where the party may deny the accuſation, and make it neceſſary to produce proof. In the preſent inſtance the fact was acknowledged and avowed by the party himſelf, no further proof was required; and Mr. Munro having had a reaſonable time given him to repair his fault, if he had thought proper, was certainly treated with all the tenderneſs and circumſpection which your orders ſo ſtrongly enjoin.

40. The offence committed by Mr. Munro was of ſuch a nature as to require exemplary puniſhment. He was the firſt amongſt thoſe who ſigned the remonſtrance that ventured openly to defy our authority. The terms of the addreſs to our Preſident were ſo highly indecent and diſreſpectful, as to add the greateſt inſult to that defiance. Under theſe circumſtances, we were of opinion that Mr. Munro was a very improper perſon to be continued in your ſervice, and accordingly reſolved that he ſhould be ſuſpended therefrom until your pleaſure could be known. He has ſince written a letter to us on the ſubject, and proteſted againſt our proceedings.

41. The next perſon who came under our notice for diſobedience of orders was Mr. Joſeph Revell, who held the office of Sub-Secretary of the civil department and Clerk of the Peace. We had judged it expedient to appoint this gentleman to be an aſſiſtant at Vizagapatam. He wrote a letter in conſequence to the Secretary, remonſtrating in very improper terms againſt the appointment, and obſerving that he hoped not to be removed from the office of Sub-Secretary without a good cauſe ſhewn, and a reaſonable time given him to clear himſelf before a legal tribunal if accuſed; and that with reſpect to the office of Clerk of the Peace, as he was totally reſponſible to that legal authority which is conſtituted by his Majeſty's Charter, ſo it was his intention not to reſign, if indeed there were regular means of his doing ſo, as he thought there were not, before the quarterly meeting of that *legal court* by the authority of which he was appointed. For further particulars we beg leave to refer to the letter itſelf.

42. Being reſolved to proceed with as much moderation as poſſible towards thoſe gentlemen who thought proper to treat us with ſo little reſpect, hoping thereby to convince them of their error, and to bring them back to a ſenſe of their duty, the only notice we took of this extraordinary letter from Mr. Revell was to repeat our orders for his proceeding to Vizagapatam; and to prevent any improper delay, we

limited

limited his departure to a certain day. In consequence he wrote a letter to our Secretary, obferving, as he had done before, that he held the office of Clerk of the Peace by virtue of a power delegated by the Royal Charter; that he could not refign the charge of it to any perfon, without running the rifk of a breach of office and duty in a ftation of the firft importance to the community, and thereby expofe himfelf to fhame and punifhment. At the fame time he wrote a letter to the gentleman whom we had appointed to receive from him the charge of that office, informing him that he was unwilling to refign it, and that he fhould hold him, or any man who dared ufurp it, amenable to the laws of his country.

43. Still unwilling to take that laft ftep to which Mr. Revell by his conduct feemed defirous of compelling us, we gave him another opportunity of returning to his duty. He did not however think proper to accept it, and repeating a fecond time that he could not leave Madras, we were reduced to the neceffity of fufpending him from the fervice for a difobedience of our orders.

44. Before we quit this fubject we fhall beg leave to make a few obfervations. Mr. Revell held the offices of Sub-Secretary and Clerk of the Peace by the appointment of the Prefident and Council, according to the ufual form. As a fervant of the Company the Prefident and Council may furely employ him as they think proper, and for their conduct in this refpect they are only refponfible to you. Almoft all your fervants hold offices and employs, and if we are not at liberty to remove any of them upon other fervices, which may be more for your intereft and advantage, though perhaps difagreeable to them, without explaining to them our reafons for fo doing, we are likely to have a great deal of unneceffary employment upon our hands, and very little benefit from their fervices.

45. We

45. We do not mean to make any further examples of the ſame ſeverity, if we can poſſibly avoid it; and we doubt not, after this great mark of our lenity, that any attempt to inſult our authority, or to impede us in the adminiſtration of your affairs, will meet with your ſtrongeſt diſapprobation and diſpleaſure.

46. We think it neceſſary to inform you, that Mr. William Harcourt Torriano, whoſe name is ſigned to the remonſtrance from the junior ſervants, wrote a letter on the day it was delivered in, informing us that he had been too haſty in ſigning it; that he had endeavoured to withdraw his name before the paper was delivered, but not being permitted to do it, he now requeſted it might be eraſed, and we have complied with his deſire accordingly.

Extract of General Letter from George Stratton, Henry Brooke, Eſquires, Sir Robert Fletcher, Charles Floyer, Archdale Palmer, Francis Jourdan, and George Mackay, Eſquires, dated Fort St. George, 21ſt September, 1776.

Received over-land by Lieutenant-Colonel Capper, the 2d of April, 1777.

Revenue department.

Honourable,

1. IN your ſeparate letter by the Grenville, dated the 12th April, 1775, you were pleaſed to direct, that "So ſoon as affairs reſpecting "Tanjore ſhall have been accommodated and finally adjuſted, a Com-"mittee of your Council, conſiſting of five members, be appointed to "make the Circuit of the northern Circars" for the purpoſes therein explained.

2. Your Honours will naturally imagine, that very little difficulty could have occurred in carrying theſe orders into execution; yet we may ſafely affirm, that we never before experienced ſo much debate and oppoſition upon any one ſingle point, as we did upon the period which ſhould be fixed for the departure of the Committee of Circuit.

3. On

3. On reference to our minutes on this ſubject, you will perceive that we wiſhed the Committee to proceed upon the Circuit early, in compliance with the evident intention of your orders. Mr. Stratton, in the month of May laſt, delivered in a minute propoſing their immediate departure, but withdrew it at the requeſt of Lord Pigot, who was deſirous of waiting the arrival of the ſecond ſhip of the ſeaſon from England before any ſteps were taken relative to the Circuit. Sir Robert Fletcher entered a minute on the ſame ſubject the 28th of June, and ſeveral other attempts were afterwards made to bring this ſubject again into diſcuſſion, but his Lordſhip continually waved it under ſome pretence or other. At length finding that he was reſolved to delay the execution of your orders as long as poſſible, Mr. Jourdan formally moved, in Conſultation the 26th July, that the Committee ſhould be immediately ſent upon the Circuit. The queſtion was put, and carried for the motion; and, at a ſubſequent meeting, the time of their departure was ſet down for the 15th Auguſt.

4. Lord Pigot's views then openly appeared. From the 26th of July until the 5th of Auguſt no means were left untried to induce us to change our reſolution. His Lordſhip pointed out other objects which he ſaid were of more importance than the buſineſs of the Circuit. Meſſieurs Ruſſell and Dalrymple, whom your Honours had appointed members of the Committee, declared themſelves injured by having a day fixed for their departure, and remonſtrated againſt it. In ſhort, every obſtacle that could be thought of was thrown in our way by Lord Pigot and theſe gentlemen, purpoſely to evade the execution of your poſitive orders by poſtponing the departure of the Committee.

5. Mr. Ruſſell, in a letter addreſſed to the Board on this occaſion, makes uſe of the following paſſage: " The Board, when fuller than at " preſent, did me the honour of appointing me Reſident at Tanjore, to " ſettle the buſineſs there, and quiet the alarms in the Rajah's mind, be- " fore my ſervices on the Circuit ſhould be called upon; and I ſhould

" hope they would not now frustrate that appointment, as I cannot but
" think it a highly necessary one; it being well known, that the Nabob's
" Sons took great pains, and made large offers to Mr. Dawson, to pre-
" vent the appointment taking place, and even now are indefatigable in
" their *nocturnal* visits."

6. Here for the first time appeared the real cause of all the opposition which had been made to the departure of the Committee of Circuit. Mr. Russell, by the President's casting voice, was, in Consultation the 8th July, appointed Resident at Tanjore, Mr. Dawson attending, and giving his voice for the appointment, although at his request he had been before exempted from all duty at the Board. When this resolution passed, it was declared and understood by every member, that the appointment of Mr. Russell was not intended to prevent his proceeding upon the Circuit, whenever it might be determined that the Committee should set out. Mr. Russell, after his nomination, remained here near a month, apparently without any cause; but when the business of the Circuit was in agitation, he then claims his appointment of Resident at Tanjore, a service, which (if it were at all necessary) might as well have been executed by any other person; and this evidently with a view to evade his duty as a member of the Committee of Circuit, an appointment expressly conferred on him by a positive order of his employers. Lord Pigot pressed Mr. Russell's going to Tanjore, with an eagerness and anxiety still greater than Mr. Russell himself had shewn, and proceeded so far as to request it repeatedly at the Board, were it only for a few days, a circumstance particularly deserving your notice.

7. When Mr. Russell found that he could not be permitted to go to Tanjore, instead of shewing that ready compliance which is due from every servant of the Company to the resolutions of the Board, particularly when they are founded in your positive commands, he declared he could not be prepared to proceed on the Circuit before the 1st of October, which was six weeks after the period fixt by the Board for the departure

parture of the Committee, although he then held the important office of President of that Committee; Mr. Dalrymple alſo pleaded for more time; but the Board, ſeeing no end to the wilful delay of theſe gentlemen, and the neceſſity of diſpatch becoming every day more urgent, it was at length reſolved that they ſhould leave the Preſidency on the 31ſt of Auguſt.

8. Mr. Dawſon, whom your Honours were pleaſed to name upon the Committee of Circuit, having obtained leave from us to go home, and Mr. Mackay, another member of your nomination, having, upon his application, been excuſed this duty by the unanimous conſent of the Board, on account of his age, which renders him unable to perform a ſervice of ſo much fatigue, we were under ſome difficulty in filling up the two vacancies. Upon this occaſion, Mr. Floyer, though he had been appointed by you Chief of Mazulipatam, chearfully offered his ſervices in the room of Mr. Dawſon; and Mr. Lathom, the Chief of Cuddalore, was appointed in the room of Mr. Mackay.

9. Thus, after encountering every ſpecies of oppoſition that could be formed againſt the execution of your orders relative to the Circuit, we at length ſucceeded.—We beg your Honours will be referred to our minutes for the particulars.

Conſultat. 26th, 29th July, 1ſt, 2d, 5th, 9th, 16th August.

10. Having taken meaſures for putting the buſineſs of the Circuit in proper train, the firſt thing that came under our notice was the paſſage in Mr. Ruſſell's letter before quoted, wherein he aſſerts, that the Nabob's Sons took great pains, and made large offers to Mr. Dawſon, to prevent his (Mr. Ruſſell's) appointment to Tanjore, and were ſtill indefatigable in their nocturnal viſits.

11. This paſſage, although very obſcure, appeared to convey ſome kind of inſinuation that was neceſſary to be explained. We knew not of any offers that had been made to Mr. Dawſon; and if there were any,

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it was his duty to have mentioned them to the Board before his departure. As to the rest, we proposed calling upon Mr. Russell for an explanation; but, before we could do this, Lord Pigot moved a question, which we think will appear to your Honours the most extraordinary that ever was entered upon record; it was in these words: "That "if upon enquiry it should appear, that the *nocturnal visits* mentioned "in Mr. Russell's letter to be made by the Nabob's Sons, be to members of the Board, such members be suspended from the Company's "service until their pleasure be known."

12. This question was thrown out by a majority of eight to three. The attempt however to pass an order to condemn men unknown, unheard, and even before any charge was produced against them, betrays principles of the most arbitrary kind. His Lordship, it is true, pretends that his motion was founded on a resolution which had passed some time before, to prevent members of the Board from visiting or receiving visits from the Nabob or his family; but this resolution having been caused by a misrepresentation from the President respecting the standing orders of the Company, was afterwards rescinded by a majority of the Board, and could not therefore afford the least ground for the motion.

13. It is with great reluctance that we employ your time upon such irksome and disagreeable subjects. We shall only observe further, that when we called upon Mr. Russell to explain the remark in his letter, that the Nabob's Sons were still *indefatigable in their nocturnal visits*, Lord Pigot immediately observed, that Mr. Russell had received that information from himself; that what he meant by *nocturnal visits* was, visits made after sun-set; but as he had failed in his motion, to bring the punishment home, he should conceal the names of the offenders until another opportunity. To those who are not well acquainted with the customs of this country, the term *nocturnal visits*, as applied by his Lordship, might possibly convey an idea, that such visits from any of the Nabob's family to members of the Board are improper; but when it is understood, that amongst the Moors of distinction the

the only time of making complimentary visits is after sunset: the attempt to affix any idea of criminality to visits of this kind appears very unbecoming and injurious.

14. Your Honors will, we conceive, be no less astonished than concerned to see the President and another Member of your Council interrupting business of real importance to your interests, by frivolous and unjust attempts to traduce the characters of those who are acting in discharge of their duty, and are at the very time endeavouring, in opposition to those gentlemen, to carry into execution your positive orders. Had Lord Pigot or Mr. Russell been able to produce any real charge, it is difficult to imagine upon this occasion they would have concealed it; but the manner in which the attack was made, is the clearest proof that it was without any kind of foundation. No man charges by insinuation who can support what he advances. In the present case the attempt was to convey the idea of a charge only; and to proceed immediately from this to a vote of condemnation, is certainly an act of cruelty and injustice scarcely to be paralleled.

15. Messieurs Russell, Dalrymple, and Lathom, Members of the Committee of Circuit, having been suspended from the Company's service, as you will be advised from the military department, we were unable to fill up these vacancies from the Council, and still leave a sufficient number to transact your affairs at the Presidency. For this reason we have selected three senior servants of the Company under Council, Messieurs Peter Perring, James Daniel, and Quintin Craufurd, who, in conjunction with Mr. Johnson and Mr. Floyer, two Members of the Council, now compose the Committee of Circuit. We have prepared such instructions as appear to us necessary for their guidance. Messieurs Johnson, Perring, Daniel, and Craufurd will proceed on the Circuit immediately, but we have permitted Mr. Floyer to go first to Masulipatam, where he has been appointed Chief, and to remain there as long as he shall think necessary to acquire sufficient information respecting the affairs of that Chiefship.

Extract of Letter from the Governor-General and Council at Fort William, in their Secret Department, to the Court of Directors, dated 22d August 1776; received per Syren, the 26th April 1777.

Par. 12. WE are sorry to acquaint you, that we have been again under the necessity of exercising the controlling powers belonging to this Govern-

 ment,

ment, in restraining and rectifying some irregularities in the Government of Madrass, but more particularly in the conduct of my Lord Pigot towards the Nabob of the Carnatic. In the month of May last the Nabob wrote to us a very affecting letter, complaining amongst other things that Lord Pigot had sent a detachment of the Company's troops to arrest Narroo Pundit, the Dobbeer, his servant, in the town of Arialoor. As that place is situated far without the district of Tanjore, and within that of Trichinopoly, we could not help considering the fact, if proved, as a violation of the peace of the Carnatic, unless it had been committed by mistake, or that it was absolutely necessary for the execution of your commands: we thereupon wrote to the Council at Madrass, to direct them to send us all their proceedings relative to the restoration of the Rajah of Tanjore; these having been transmitted to us, together with several other Letters and papers from the Nabob of Arcot, we took them into our serious consideration, and unanimously agreed to the Resolutions which were sent to Madrass, accompanying our Letter of the 7th instant; they apply besides the act of hostility committed at Arialoor, to several other references since received from the Nabob, whereby it appeared that his honor, his dignity, and his independence, had been greatly injured without any necessity or provocation whatever.

13. These Resolutions have been formed as near as possible to the system which we observe, from the perusal of all your Letters and orders to the Presidency of Madrass, you have had in view for maintaining a good intelligence with the Nabob, and more particularly for preserving to him those dependent rights inherent in him as sovereign of the Carnatic, which we find so fully expressed in the 31st and 32d paragraphs of your General Letter to the Commissioners, dated 23d March 1770, viz.

Par. 31. "When we reflect on the long experience we have had of Mahomed Aly's faithful attachment to the English Company, we are surprized at the idea entertained by the Governor and Council in their Letters of the 8th March and 27th June 1769, to reduce him to a mere nominal Nabob."

32. "The sanction of the treaty of Paris, by which treaty public faith became the guarantee of the Nabob's title, will be of little use to him, if notorious infringements of the rights and powers usually inherent in and dependent on such title, should be by us countenanced and permitted to take place."

19. We

14. We transmit you a copy of all our Proceedings on these subjects, which goes a number in the packet.

Extract of Letter from the Governor-General and Council at Fort William, in their Secret Department, dated the 12th September 1776; received per Syren, the 26th April 1777.

Par. 37. WE beg leave to refer you to our Letter of the 22d ultimo, and to the copies of our Proceedings which accompanied it, for our Resolutions and Directions to the President and Council at Fort St. George, on the improper and unwarranted conduct of the Right Honorable the President towards the Nabob.

38. When the Nabob of the Carnatic made his formal appeal to this Government against the violent and hostile acts of Lord Pigot, you will find that we unanimously declared them, after the most complete investigation of the Proceedings of the President and Council of Fort St. George, to be contrary to the Act of Parliament, by which the Company's Presidencies in India are prohibited from making orders for commencing hostilities against any of the Princes of India, without our consent and approbation. Here we stopped. Having established the offence, the obvious conclusion to be drawn from our declaration was, that we might, in case our Orders and Resolutions should be attended with no effect, proceed to the exercise of the controlling powers vested in us, and of course to pronounce the sentence of suspension against the President; at the same time we hoped that this harsh and severe measure would be unnecessary, as a large Majority of the Council at Fort St. George had united to oppose the measures which we had condemned, and we relied on their support for carrying our orders into execution. We contented ourselves therefore with laying down a rule to be observed by the President and Council in all their transactions with the Nabob, knowing that it was in the power of the Majority to abide by and enforce it, in virtue of the regular means which they possessed to govern the affairs of that Administration; but, to our great astonishment and alarm, we were informed, in a separate Letter addressed 10th Sept. to us by the Majority, consisting of seven Members of the Council, that Lord Pigot had by artifice and violence attempted to exclude their two senior Members from the Government, in order to obtain a forced Majority in his favour; that they had therefore been compelled to protest against him, and three other Members who joined with him, and to separate themselves from that part of the Council.

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39. A few days after we received a Letter from Lord Pigot acquainting us, that having found it neceſſary to put Sir Robert Fletcher into arreſt for circulating ſeditious papers in the Garriſon, (which papers we ſuppoſe to have been the proteſt) Colonel Stuart was appointed to command the army; and that his Lordſhip had been made a priſoner by Colonel Edington, through the means of Colonel Stuart, and carried in confinement to the Mount, where he was placed under the charge of Major Horne. That a day or two after, a party of ſoldiers, under the command of Colonel Edington, had been ſent to remove his Lordſhip from the Mount, but he had reſolved not to ſubmit to it; and that Commodore Sir Edward Hughes having gone to pay him a viſit, he had claimed the protection of his Majeſty's flag; and Sir Edward Hughes had promiſed to receive him on board the Saliſbury, if permiſſion could be obtained for that purpoſe.

40. Alarmed and concerned, as we muſt be, to ſee the Government of Madraſs in diſpute between the two contending parties in the Council, and in danger of falling into anarchy between them both, we find ourſelves under the diſagreeable neceſſity of taking a firm and decided part in their diviſions; and though the Majority have not yet informed us of all the circumſtances which compelled them after their ſeparation to aſſume the Government, and to throw their late Preſident into confinement, yet the rights and powers of your Governments in India, being, by the original conſtitution of them, veſted and eſtabliſhed in the Majority of the Council, we thought it incumbent on us to acknowledge them as the legal adminiſtration of the Preſidency of Fort St. George, and to offer them our aſſiſtance in ſupport of their authority. To remove any doubts which either party may entertain of the powers of a Majority of the Council, we have ſent them copies of your late orders to this Preſidency, contained in the 17th, 18th, and 19th paragraphs of your Letter per Lioneſs, dated 31ſt January laſt.

Extract

Extract of Secret Consultations, Fort William, 7th August 1776; received per Grenville the 25th of April 1777.

RECONSIDERED the proceedings of the Right Honorable the President and Council of Fort St. George, on the subject of the representations from the Nabob of Arcot, which the Board concluded reading the 31st ultimo. Secret department.

The Governor-General delivers in the following Minute on the subject.

FOR the clearer understanding of the Nabob's complaints, I have extracted them from the several Letters which he has lately written to this Government, and formed them into the following distinct articles.

1st. That an English officer, at the head of sixty troopers and a party of Seapoys, by Lord Pigot's order, entered the town of Arialoor, belonging to the Government of the Carnatic, surrounded the house occupied by Narroo Pundit, Dobbeer, a principal servant of the Nabob, and by other servants of the Nabob, forced away the Seapoys whom he had stationed with them as a guard, seized and carried them prisoners, with all the Nabob's papers which were in their charge, public and private, to Tanjore to Lord Pigot.

2d. That Lord Pigot caused the lands which had been assigned for payment of the Nabob's troops stationed in Tanjore to be taken from the charge of his agents, in breach of a promise made and repeated by Lord Pigot in person to the Nabob, that the assignment should be continued for the purpose of discharging the arrears of pay due to the said troops.

3d. That Lord Pigot caused other assignments of the grain and revenues of Taniore, which had been mortgaged by the Nabob for payment of debts contracted in the reduction of Tanjore, and for the service of the country after the reduction of it, to be taken from his creditors.

4th. That Lord Pigot caused a "Proclamation to be made in the
" fort, and through all the districts of Tanjore, that no one should
" give protection or rice to any of the Nabob's people, but bring them
" forth; and even that if any person gave shelter to any of the Nabob's
" servants, he should be considered as criminal."

5th. That the most creditable and ancient servants of the Nabob, who were at Tanjore, were treated with great indignities by the dependants of Lord Pigot, and some of them detained in prison by the Rajah, even so late as the month of May last.

6th. That Lord Pigot sent people at midnight to seize and carry aw some of the Nabob's Reiats from the door of his house.

7th. That Lord Pigot threatened the Nabob, that he would place a guard of soldiers at his door, and used other violent and menacing language to the Nabob, in the presence of the Nabob's brother, his sons, and of his whole court.

8th. That an English officer with a company of Seapoys, by order of Lord Pigot, entered the countries of Ramnaut and Shew-Ganga, belonging to the Nabob, and took forcible possession of certain districts in both, under pretence that they belonged to Tanjore.

9th. That a party of Seapoys forcibly entered the Kella of Woodiarpollam, belonging to the Nabob, with orders from Lord Pigot to seize Mahomed Hebraz Khan, a principal servant of the Nabob, but that missing him they searched all the houses, and carried away and ill-treated many of the inhabitants.

Observations on the above Charges.

‡Vid. Nabob's Letter to the Governor-General and Council, No. 1. 2. 3.

1st. This the Nabob complains of, as an act unbecoming even towards an enemy; a degradation of his character in the eyes of the world; a hostile invasion of his country; a violation of friendship and faith; derogatory from the honor of the Company; contrary to the guarantee by which the English Nation is bound to him; irreconcilable with his right as an ally to the King of Great Britain, and productive of distrust in his subjects, and anarchy in his government.

Vide Nabob's Letter to Mr. Stratton, dated 22d April, and entered in Consultation the 24th April, p. 55.

Lord Pigot's account of this affair, and his motives, may be collected from the following passages in his Diary, his Letter to the Nabob, and the General Letter of the President and Council of Fort St. George to this Board.

‡ Bengal Country Correspondence is not come to hand.

Extract

Extract from the Diary of Lord Pigot, Consultation, 13th May.

" Gave Captain Tonyn orders to proceed with the troop to Vickerum
" to escort the Dobbeer hither."

Extract of a Letter from Lord Pigot to the Nabob, entered in Consultation 13th May.

" I am sorry to observe to you, that I found, as I passed through the " country, the proper officers, with all the accounts, had been removed by " your orders from every village, and I was soon informed that every " part of the country was in the same situation; every means had been " taken to throw difficulties in my way in the execution of the Company's " orders, and to distress the country and inhabitants. In this situation " I thought it the properest method to escort the Dobbeer here by the " Company's troop of cavalry."

Extract of a Letter from Lord Pigot to the Nabob, entered in Consultation 13th May.

" Your son Ameer-ul-Omrah, perhaps forgot to inform you, that " Nurroo Pundit, the Dobbeer, after Tanjore was taken, told your son " he would not desert his master in his misfortunes, and refused to act " until he carried him to the Rajah, and desired him to lay his commands " upon him. Was it noble? was it generous? was it honorable? was it " just, to imprison this venerable old man, between seventy and eighty " years of age; this public officer, this first officer of the Tanjore reve- " nue; this officer of the public, not your Highness's servant?"

Extract of a Letter from the President and Council of Fort St. George to the Governor-General and Council, dated the 13th June.

" Our President acquaints us, that as he passed through the Tanjore " country, he found the proper officers with all the accounts had been " removed by the Nabob's orders from the villages, and was soon in- " formed that every part of the country was in the same situation; that " every means had been taken to throw difficulties in his way in the " execution of the Company's orders, and to distress the country and " inhabitants; that without the assistance of the Dobbeer and his accounts " it would have been impossible for the Rajah to have obtained any

" knowledge

" knowledge of the Revenues, or indeed to have been properly placed " in the management of his country: this man having been first mi-" nister, and in fact governed the Tanjore country for these fifty years " past. That after Tanjore was taken, he told the Nabob's son, " who commanded there for his father, that he would not desert his " master in his misfortunes, and refused to act until he carried him to " the Rajah, and desired the Rajah, to lay his commands upon him. " That on his (the President's) proceeding to Tanjore, the Nabob ordered " the Dobbeer to be sent out of the Tanjore country with all the public " accounts; that the Dobbeer had retarded his journey by various pre-" tences, and sent a message to the Rajah, desiring that he might be con-" ducted to Tanjore: the troop which attended the President was there-" fore sent to escort him, but when the troop arrived at the place whence " the message to the Rajah had been sent, they found the Dobbeer had " been conveyed from thence to Arialoor, whither the commanding " officer of the troop followed, and escorted him to Tanjore."

The sum of the above extract is, that Lord Pigot did cause the Dobbeer to be arrested by a military force, and brought by force to Tanjore; for this is certainly implied by the expression "escorted," so frequently repeated by Lord Pigot in his explanation of this transaction. The reasons assigned for it are, 1st. That the Dobbeer had carried off with him all the accounts of the revenue of Tanjore, which it was necessary to recover for the security of the collections, and for the re-establishment of the Rajah's Government; and 2dly. That the Nabob had compelled the Dobbeer to engage in his service contrary to his own inclination, and to the fidelity which he owed to his late master. In opposition to the first of these reasons, it is affirmed by Mr. Benfield and Mr. De Souza, that the only accounts which the Dobbeer carried away with him were the general accounts, kept in the Persian and Maratta languages, and corresponding with those which are called Sudder Accounts in this country; but that all the accounts of the collections which regard the detail, the Moffussul accounts remained in the hands of the inferior officers of the collections in each village and district. The testimony of these persons, from the interest which they appear to have had in the subject, might been liable to objections; but it remains indisputed, and its exact agreement with the practice and usage of our provinces is a strong presumption of its truth. The second reason alledged in justification of the seizure of the Dobbeer, namely, that he had been forced to accept the Nabob's service, though at best it is but a recrimination, and by no means an excuse for the violence used in his release, refutes itself by the strange inconsistency of compelling a man to accept the

the most responsible and lucrative trust in the country, which it concerned the Nabob's interest to bestow on a man on whose integrity and devotion he could rely (for his ability, without these qualifications, would rather be an objection to his being employed in it) and which the first man in the Carnatic would have accepted with thankfulness. If this is insufficient, the fact asserted by the Nabob, that the Dobbeer was a prisoner in Tanjore when it was taken by him, and released by his authority, and the Letters of the Dobbeer to the Nabob, which bear the most evident marks of authenticity, put the matter beyond all doubt that the Dobbeer was voluntarily engaged in the Nabob's service, and actually in his service, when Lord Pigot issued the orders for arresting him.

Upon the whole I think it is clearly proved, that in this instance the conduct of Lord Pigot is contrary to the Act of Parliament, which declares, that, " It shall not be lawful for the President and Council of Ma-" drass to make any orders for commencing hostilities against any Indian " prince or power, without the consent and approbation of the Governor-" General and Council first had and obtained, except in such cases of " imminent necessity, as would render it dangerous to postpone such hos-" tilies, &c. and except in such cases, where the said President and Coun-" cil shall have received special orders from the United East-India Com-" pany ;" and it may be added, that it is equally contrary to the rights of the Nabob, which the Company, in their orders under which Lord Pigot professedly acted, expresly direct to be maintained, and to the national faith, pledged by the alliance subsisting between the Nabob and the Company.

2, 3. The second and third Articles, although the debates upon them occupy a great portion of the Minutes of the Council of Fort St. George, yet do not, in my apprehension of the Act of Parliament, fall within the controlling powers vested by it in this Government; neither are we furnished with materials by which we can be competent judges of the points in dispute.

4. This charge is extracted from the Nabob's Letter to Lord Pigot dated 29th April, and entered in Consultation the 13th May. No reply is made to it in any of the subsequent Letters of Lord Pigot to the Nabob, nor is any further notice taken of it on the Proceedings.

It will rest with the Board to determine whether they will take up the charge, or consider it as not yet properly before them for want of proof, or

whether the ſilence of Lord Pigot on ſuch an occaſion is to be deemed an acknowledgment of it. The fact itſelf, if admitted, certainly amounts to a declaration of the moſt hoſtile kind againſt the Nabob, and demanded his Lordſhip's reply, if it was either falſely related, or could be juſtified by any circumſtances attending it, eſpecially as it was to be tranſmitted with the other Records of the Preſidency of Fort St. George, for the expreſs purpoſe of informing this Board of the manner in which the Company's orders had been carried into execution, and for its judgment thereon.

5. This charge appears in the following Extracts of the Nabob's Letter viz.

Extract of a Letter from the Nabob to Lord Pigot, dated 29th April, and entered in Conſultation 13th May.

" AND my managers, perſons of conſiderations as above-mentioned, " purſuant to the orders I gave them, made no oppoſition to the people " ſent by you; notwithſtanding which, ſingle guards of your people " treated my principal managers, in the face of my numerous army, with " more diſhonor and diſgrace than even an enemy is ſubject to, and, after " confining them with indignity, ſeized their papers."

Extract of a Letter from the Nabob to Lord Pigot, dated 6th July, and entered in Conſultation 12th July.

" I HAVE full reliance on the equity of your maſters, and am per- " ſuaded that inſtead of being pleaſed, they will be uneaſy at hearing of " theſe affairs; that they will not approve of my being made to ſuſtain " ſuch heavy loſſes, and that they will place no dependence upon accounts, " which by violence and oppreſſion, and keeping my clerks and mana- " nagers under confinement, you have cauſed them to make out accord- " ing to your own dictates."

From the ſame to the ſame.

" YOUR people, in conjunction with Tuljaujee, behaved in ſuch a " manner to my principal officers and ſervants, ſome of whom, from " father to ſon, had been for years in the ſervice of my family, and all " of whom were gentlemen and perſons of diſtinction, that it was impoſſi-
" ble

"ble for them to have gone through greater disgrace, dishonor, or igno
"miny. Some of my servants are even to this day in confinement unde
"the authority of Tuljaujee, and the Company's people."

Both the Proofs and Answer to this are also yet wanting. It seems indeed to be implicitly denied by the following Motion made by Lord Pigot in Consultation 12th July.

"The Nabob complaining in the foregoing Letter that some of his "people are kept in confinement at Tanjore, the President proposes that "a Letter be wrote the Nabob, to request he will inform the Board who "they are, that we may apply to the Rajah to procure their releasement, "if unjustly kept in that situation.——"

6. This charge appears in the following Extracts, viz.

Extract of a Letter from the Nabob to Sir Edward Hughes, entered in Consultation the 3d June.

"AS Lord Pigot, on a former occasion, ordered people to enter my "garden in the middle of the night, pretending that he had information "that I had ordered some people to be ill-treated there."

Extract from the Nabob's Letter to the Governor-General.

"Lord Pigot sent a man to my door at midnight, and forcibly carried "away my Reiats."

The following is Lord Pigot's account of the affair.

Extract Consultation of the 6th June.

"On the 10th May I received the following report from the head Hircarrah."

Report of the Head Hircarrah.

"After the Nabob took the Marvas country, the Circar's people "plundered every thing belonging to the said Marvas managers; among

"the

" the rest one Vellayan Chervacar's house was plundered; his daughter
" remained in the said country very poor."

" One Verapilla, an enemy to her, told the Nabob that she was worth money; upon which he ordered her to be brought under guard to him; and accordingly she, and two more women, and about thirteen men, were brought to Chessauck, the Company's bounds, a few days ago; but upon examining the woman, there was no money to be got from her as was expected. On this the said enemy told the Nabob, that if he would send her back along with him to the said country, he will put her to torture and recover the money. The woman would not go, for fear they will murder her; but they are forcing her to go, and she declares if she is forced she will kill herself. As she is now in the Company's bounds, sent to acquaint your Lordship with the above violence, and beg you to save her life; and as it is my duty to acquaint you with any news or violence that might be committed in the bounds, I thought fit to make this report to your Lordship."

" The President was upon a visit, and at supper, when he received this information; and as the Nabob's gardens and those to the Company's house join, he ordered the Hircarrah to wait at the gardens, till his return, and to watch if these people passed. About eleven o'clock, the President stopping at the gardens in his way to the Fort, was informed that the woman was not come away, but that some of the people were carried off towards St. Thomè; upon which the President thought proper to direct the officer of the guard to send a Havildar and some Seapoys, who overtook them at St. Thomè; and the President at the same time gave to Saib, one of the Company's waiting Peons, the written information he had received, and directed him to carry it to the house of the Nabob, where many of his servants generally are, and to desire that the women might not be removed till he saw the Nabob in the morning."

The subject scarce merited so long a discussion of it in this place, in the midst of so many other grievances of much more importance; but as the Council of Fort St. George appear to have taken up the intimation made by the Nabob, as a formal complaint against Lord Pigot, I have therefore inserted his reply.

7. The Nabob's relation of this affair is contained in the following Extract from him to Sir Edward Hughes.

" Lord

"Lord Pigot, not content with the low and disgraceful state to which "he has reduced my authority by the measures which he executed at Tan-"jore, has lately threatened to subject me to the most personal dis-"grace."

"On the 27th instant, at eight o'clock in the morning, he came to my "Durbar, and in the presence of my brother Morphewt Khan Bahadar, "and my sons Omdah-ul-Omrah Bahadar and Aameer-ul-Omrah Bahadar, "and Keerim Moodin Khan, declared, in the most determined and threat-"ening tone of voice, that he would place an European guard upon my "house to keep me a prisoner in his power; and naming Members of the "Council, he said they were rascals, and that he would dismiss them "from the service. He said also, that all the white-faced fellows were ras-"cals, and that he would not allow any of them to see me: also he asked "Omdah-ul-Omrah and Aumeer-ul-Omrah why they did not kick out "all such rascals? The cause of this outrage was my having written "him a Letter on the 26th instant, a copy of which is enclosed, repre-"senting the injustice which he did me, by ordering a military force "to march into the Raminade country, to deprive me of some districts "there, and putting them in possession of Tuljaujee! Can there be any "oppression equal to depriving a man of his right, and then threatening "him with the greatest disgrace if he dares to make a representation of "that right?"

And the following is his Lordship's account of it.

Extract of a Letter to Sir Edward Hughes from the President and Council, in Consultation, 3d June.

"OUR President assures us, that the Nabob has totally misunder-"stood him; that he never had a thought of placing any guard over "him, although he feared, and expressed those fears to the Nabob, that "the encouragement his Highness gave to European visitors, and the "impediment to public business, arising from the intrigues carried on by "them at his Durbar, would lay him under a necessity to place a guard "to bring such persons to him, that he might be acquainted with the "nature of their business."

This explanation is an acknowledgment of the fact, although it qualifies the intent of it. However such a declaration may have been expressed, it was certainly a great indignity to the Nabob, and if not an hostility in the literal sense of the words of the act of Parliament, it was in its natural tendency more likely to destroy the friendship which has so long subsisted between the Nabob and the Company than acts of overt and avowed enmity, from the deep wound given to the Nabob's honor and personal feelings. It was most undoubtedly the design of the Legislature, in investing this Presidency with a control over the rest, to preserve an uniformity in their political operations, and to prevent the affairs of the Company from being embarrassed by contradictory engagements, or endangered by wars, dictated by the desultory caprice or interest of individuals, who possessed the temporary rule. Every specie of insult or violence, which has a direct tendency to provoke hostilities against the Company, and stamp on them the reproach of having been the aggressors in any consequences which might ensue, is contrary therefore to the spirit and intent of the act of Parliament, or the act was passed in vain; since there are a thousand ways by which it may be alluded, without "making any orders for commencing hostilities, or declaring or making "war," which are the express terms of the act; and if such acts are generally prohibited, how much more ought they to be guarded against, by the utmost vigilance and exertion of the controlling Government, in cases which are likely to dissolve the connexion of the Company and of the British Nation with the first and firmest ally that they ever possessed in India.

It is true, that on this, and every other occasion in which the Nabob has thought himself aggrieved, he has observed the most patient forbearance, both in his own conduct and in the orders issued to his officers; but this is no argument of the rectitude of the measures of which he complains, nor a proof that the peace of the Carnatic has not been disturbed by them. This Board will probably think it incumbent upon them to judge of those acts by their consonancy to the act of Parliament, and by their tendency, not by their real effects.

Had the Nabob been possessed of less moderation, or perhaps been less fearful of forfeiting the alliance which long habit had cemented into a friendship with the British Nation, he might have retaliated the hostilities offered him. A war might have ensued. He might have sought the alliance of Hyder Ally Khan, or of the Marattas, or thrown himself on the protection of the French; and his friendship, power, and influence, irrecoverably

irrecoverably lost to the British Nation. This might have been the consequence of such provocation; the world might have approved his resentment, and attributed to the aggressors the blame of having sacrificed the faith and interest of the Company, the peace of the Carnatic, and the benefits resulting from the alliance with the Prince of it, to their violence and intemperance.

8th. The particulars of this transaction may be collected from the following places in the Fort St. George Consultations.

The Nabob's Letter to Mr. Stratton, in Consultation, 29th April.

Consultation of 16th May.

Letter from the Nabob to Commodore Sir Edward Hughes, in Consultation, 3d June.

In the Letter from the Nabob to Lord Pigot, in the same Consultation, and in Consultation of the 25th June.

THE sum of the whole is, that Lord Pigot caused possession to be given to the Rajah of Tanjore of certain districts in the countries of Ramnaud and Shew-gango, better known by the Names of Marrawa and Neelcota, forcibly removing the Nabob's people who had charge of them. The Nabob alledges, that these districts never appertained to Tanjore, and that it was the rebellious invasion of them by the Rajah in 1771 which drew on him the Nabob's resentment, and the first expedition against Tanjore; and that the Rajah afterwards disclaimed all future pretensions to them in writing. On the other hand, Lord Pigot and the Council of Fort St. George join in affirming, that the districts in question were actually in the Rajah's possession in 1762, and therefore are now restored to him. "As it appears that the Company's orders are, that "the Rajah shall be put in possession of such places as he held when "the treaty between him and the Nabob was guarantied by the English," I cannot doubt that there were better grounds for this assertion, since the whole Board seem to have joined in it, than the quotations which they have introduced to prove it; which do not prove it; on the contrary, they serve rather to cast doubts on the justice of the Rajah's pretensions,

since it appears, that although the Rajah was in possession of these districts in the year 1762, and before the conclusion of the treaty, he had then but newly acquired them by violence; which the Nabob complained of as an act of injustice and usurpation, and re-claimed the places as his property in the very Letter which is quoted in proof of the Rajah's right of possession. Whether they were restored to him, or remained in the Rajah's possession, does not appear; but it may be presumed, from the present Rajah's Letter to Mr. Dupré, dated 25th March 1771, and entered in Consultation of the 25th June, that he was not at that time in possession of them; and it is not probable that he recovered them in the low state to which his power was afterwards reduced, by the consequences of the first expedition against his country. I have read with attention the General Letter of the 12th April 1775, but cannot find any passage in it which directs, that the Rajah shall be put in possession of such places as he held when the treaty of 1762 was concluded; unless the 20th paragraph of the General Letter may admit of such a conclusion. The reverse may be inferred from the 30th paragraph of that Letter, which, alluding to the Rajah's invasion of the countries of Marrawa and Neelcota as the assigned cause of the first expedition against Tanjore, admits the Rajah to have been "reprehensible on that account;" an admission, which, by an infallible consequence, allows the Nabob's right to retain the possession, until it should be proved that it belonged to the Rajah by the treaty of 1762. But granting that the Company's orders have directed that the Rajah shall be restored to the possession of all that he held at that time, and granting that he had at that time the possession of the districts in question, yet surely there could be no excuse for employing a military force to expel the Nabob's Agents, until application had been first made to him in form and he had refused to restore them. Such a proceeding would have been improper even towards a neutral prince, much more so towards the Nabob of the Carnatic. Had the mode which I have mentioned been observed, it is most likely, from the general tenor of the Nabob's conduct, that he would have refused his consent, but sent orders of acquiescence to his agents. In default of such orders his agents might have repelled the hostility offered to them, and in that case, Lord Pigot, who issued the order, would certainly have been the aggressor. It is observable, that the promise made to the Rajah to put his people in possession of Hanamantagoody, &c. (the districts in question) was not written until the 15th May, when Lord Pigot was at Madrass; and however urgent the occasion might have been, there could not have been the least delay in making the application to the Nabob, as the place of

of the Nabob's residence is separated but by a wall from that of his Lordship's.

In this instance I think it is clearly proved that Lord Pigot was guilty of an unnecessary, unauthorized, and unjust act of hostility against the Nabob.

9th. This complaint is but recently mentioned in the Nabob's Letter to the Governor-General, dated the 25th Jeme-de-ul-awul. It merits enquiry, and ought for that purpose to be transmitted to the President and Council of Fort St. George.

In enumerating the specific articles of complaint exhibited by the Nabob against Lord Pigot, I have passed over the principal matter of complaint, and that from which all the rest have originated, namely, his deprivation of the country of Tanjore, this being in effect an act of the Honorable Company, and perhaps not imputable to Lord Pigot; and if so, not subject to the revisal of this Government. Yet I cannot avoid one obvious remark, which has been suggested to me by a careful perusal of their orders, which seems to imply a different intention from that understood by the Right Honorable the President and Council of Fort St. George. In these orders the Company seem to have felt the delicacy and danger which might attend the execution of them, and for that cause to have marked with precision the line to which they might be extended, but allowed a large discretionary power to moderate the effect of them. They do not even direct, in express terms, that the Nabob *shall* be dispossessed, nor that the Rajah *shall* be restored, although they say they are " *Resolved* to *contribute* towards the restoration of the King of Tan- " jore;" and order the President and Council " To inform him, that " they have *determined* to replace him upon the throne of his ancestors, " upon certain terms, &c. without infringing the rights of Mahomed " Ally Khan, the Nabob of the Carnatic."

These expressions, taken in their plain and literal sense, would seem to imply, that although it was their fixed design to restore the Rajah of Tanjore, yet the execution of it was reserved to an indefinite time; and that the security of his person, and the conditions of his re-establishment, were the only points which their present orders required to be adjusted; yet I think it plain from the subsequent instructions, which could not be carried into effect without the Rajah's previous restoration, nor delayed

without much confusion and danger, that they intended, by these cautious intimations of their wishes, to leave the time and mode of their accomplishment to the discretion of the President and Council. According to this construction, the Government of Fort St. George were authorized, but not commanded, to proceed immediately to the restoration of the Rajah, provided the express conditions directed in their orders, and the maintenance of the Nabob's rights, could be previously secured; and without these conditions, and this reservation, they were not authorized to restore the Rajah. These conditions are detailed and explained with so minute an exactness, as leave no room or latitude either for misconception or for deviation from them.

The subject is of that importance, that I have thought it necessary to be very minute and particular in collecting the sense of the Company's orders; they are the only test by which we can obtain a proper judgment of the conduct of Lord Pigot, and of the Presidency of Fort St. George, in their late proceedings respecting the Nabob of Arcot and the Rajah of Tanjore, which are a connected series of hostilities, every one of which, not authorized by the special orders of the Company, or by imminent necessity, is an infringement of the Act of Parliament, which vests the ordering and directing of such hostilities solely in the Governor-General and Council of Bengal. I do not mean to examine too closely the rights of the Nabob, as they may be affected by these transactions, except in those instances in which the Company's orders have been palpably exceeded, and his rights violated. Some I have already noticed; I shall now proceed to others, which are not mentioned as distinct articles of grievance in the Nabob's Letters, though involved in them, but which appear in the Minutes of the Consultations.

In the 8th Paragraph of their instructions, the President and Council are ordered to assure the Rajah of Tanjore, that "If the annual amount" of the expenses of the Company's troops allotted to the garrison of Tanjore "Shall at any time be less than the revenues assigned to the Company, the surplus of the said revenues shall be faithfully returned to him; but if the expense of the garrison shall exceed the amount of the revenues so assigned, then the King of Tanjore shall make good the deficiency."

The equity of this rule has been totally set aside by the President and Council of Fort St. George, in the stipulation made by him,

and confirmed by them, of a fixed subsidy to be paid by the Rajah.

Though the sixth paragraph directs, that "a garrison of the Company's troops shall be admitted into the fort of Tanjore," yet there is not the least intimation of a desire, that the whole Country of Tanjore should be protected by the Company's troops; and the resolution of the President and Council to that effect on the 25th of April, although followed by an offer of the Rajah to the same purpose on the meeting between him and Lord Pigot, is both a diminution of the Rajah's "authority over his subjects," and an infringement of the rights of the Nabob "of the Carnatic," by the power thus exercised over the Nabob's Vassal, to the total exclusion of his sovereignty: this measure is therefore unauthorized, contrary to the orders of the Company, and illegal.

The appointment of a civil resident at Tanjore having passed, with much opposition from some of the Members of the Council of Fort St. George, on the grounds of its being contrary to the Company's orders, it may be necessary to advert to it, although I do not conceive it liable to that objection, nor the propriety of it to fall within the cognizance of this Board.

There are two passages in the correspondence of Lord Pigot with the Nabob, which, though only speculative, yet, as they are declaratory of the principles of his political conduct, ought not to be passed unnoticed: I shall quote them at large.

Extract

Extract of Lord Pigot's Letter to the Nabob, dated 20th April.

"I WILL never interfere in your business, &c. but when that business "is connected with the interest of my employers; in such case you may "be assured that I shall always act as appears to be proper; and as "you are their old friend and ally, I dare say you will approve of my "making use of your authority."

Extract of Lord Pigot's Letter to the Nabob, dated 13th May.

"SHALL the gates of Arialoor, or any other gates in the Payen "Ghaut, be shut against the troops of the Company, who have fought "for you near thirty years, when they ask admittance by my authority? "I hope not. This would be an improper return to the man who put "your Highness in possession of them, upon your solemn assurances that "there was no distinction between you and the Company, and that "you wished it only for the appearance it would have with the country "powers."

I believe that these doctrines have made the same impression on every Member of the Board as that which I myself felt in perusing them. In effect I think them more alarming in their tendency to subvert the political system, which has been forming during the space of thirty years past in the Carnatic, than any specific act which has yet been committed against the rights of the Nabob or the interests of the Company; because, if admitted as ruling principles, there is no species of violence and indignity, which can be offered to the Nabob, to which they may not be applied. If it be allowed to the President of Fort St. George to make use of the Nabob's authority, even in the Nabob's own affairs when they are connected with the Company's interests, it necessarily follows, that the President must be the judge of the connexion; and as the choice of measures is left also to his pleasure, he may employ the Nabob's authority both against the will, right, property, and even the person of the Nabob. The consequences of the right claimed by Lord Pigot to enter every gate in the Carnatic with the Company's forces are equally dangerous, as the right itself, if admitted, would be a direct subversion of the Nabob's sovereignty over the Carnatic.

The principal rank which the East-India Company occupies among the powers of India, renders them in every political step which they make an object of general attention, and too often of general alarm. In their concerns with their neighbours and allies, the most scrupulous observance of their public engagements and of the rights of others ought to be their first and ruling object; for every Prince and state, whose possessions may stand within sight of the Company's ambition, is naturally led to apply to their own interests the treatment which they see others receive from the Company and their dependants.

I have been told, I know not with what truth, that the Nabob Asoph O'Dowlah received a very early information of the Company's late orders, no doubt exaggerated, concerning Tanjore, and expressed great apprehension of the consequences of such a precedent. It is easy to trace the progress of such an impression, on a mind even less weak than his, to effects of the most fatal kind, the certain production of distrust, and the care of self-preservation.

To qualify the past acts in such a manner as may efface the public impression made by them, and conciliate the Nabob's mind without departing from that pursuit of justice which has hitherto impelled the Honourable the Court of Directors thus far to espouse the cause of the *Rajah of* * Tanjore, is not within the power of this Board. This depends on higher authority; nor will even this be sufficient. With respect to the part which this Government has to act, if the other members of it agree with me in opinion of the past conduct of Lord Pigot, and of the unhappy temper which has actuated it, I think that they have but this alternative, either to proceed to the rigorous extremity pointed out by the act of Parliament, or to employ some mode of protection, by which the Nabob may be guarded against future wrongs and indignities, until the final remedy shall be prescribed by the Honourable Company. I own I much incline to the latter, and for that purpose shall propose, if no better expedient be suggested, that a person be appointed to reside with the Nabob of Arcot, as the Minister and Representative of this Government, empowered to receive both such communications as the Nabob may think proper to make to this Board, and in our name to call upon the Governor and Council of Fort St. George for the suspension of every act of their's, by which the Nabob's rights may be usurped or infringed, or the Company's faith or the National honour endangered.

* The words, "*Rajah of*," are not in the Original.

Vide the Nabob's letter to the Governor-General, No. 132. *

The Nabob himſelf has requeſted that a perſon might be deputed to Fort St. George, to witneſs and to report to us the truth of his complaints; and the preſent diſpoſition of many of the members of the Council of Fort St. George, affords an additional reaſon for the belief that ſuch an appointment ſtrengthened with the powers which I have recommended to be annexed to it, will prove the moſt effectual, as it will be the leaſt exceptionable means of protection which can be afforded the Nabob.

For the redreſs of the paſt there is but one ſubject which I think can admit of it, the transfer of the diſtricts of Marrawa and Neelcota to the Rajah of Tanjore. My opinion is, that if the Nabob ſtill perſiſts in his claim to theſe diſtricts, the Rajah ſhould be obliged to relinquiſh them to his agents, and a commiſſion appointed to examne upon the ſpot the foundation of their reſpective pretenſions. This Commiſſion may be formed either of perſons choſen by the two parties, or by agents nominated by the Preſident and Council of Fort St. George, with the conſent of both parties, if that can be obtained, and their award tranſmitted to this Board for confirmation.

A true extract and copy of the Governor-General's minute.

J. P. AURIOL, Secretary.

Letter from Andrew Stuart Eſquire, to the Chairman of the Court of Directors.

SIR,

IT may poſſibly appear to you, or to ſome of the gentlemen in the Direction of the Eaſt-India Company's affairs, ſomewhat ſingular, that during your late important diſcuſſions, where the propriety of my brother's conduct was directly or indirectly brought in queſtion, there ſhould have been no ſymptoms of my taking any intereſt in theſe matters, nor any attempt made to prevent or remove prejudices, with regard to the part Colonel Stuart had acted during the late unhappy convulſions at Madras.

It is on that account that I now take the liberty of addreſſing to you this letter, to explain the reaſon of my ſilence hitherto, and at

* N. B. Bengal Country Correſpondence is not come to hand.

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the ſame time to communicate to you, without reſerve, the ſtate of my mind with regard to the reported tranſactions at Madras, and the proceedings which I am informed theſe reports have recently given riſe to in this country.

From the 18th of March to the 5th of this month I was not in London, having gone to Scotland, where I was neceſſarily detained, attending my re-election, during the very period which I now underſtand was ſo much occupied here by diſputes and proceedings relative to the Madras buſineſs.

From this you will perceive, that ſuppoſing me to have been diſpoſed to take a part in theſe diſputes, my neceſſary abſence from London had deprived me of the opportunity.

But I may venture to go one ſtep further, by aſſuring you, that even if I had been upon the ſpot, the only part I ſhould have taken during that period of imperfect information, would have been to requeſt the Directors and Proprietors to ſuſpend their opinions of my brother's conduct, until there ſhould be an opportunity of inveſtigating, and learning with certainty, what that conduct and the motives of it had truly been.

Even at this hour I do not think myſelf ſufficiently informed, in theſe reſpects, to be able to form a deciſive opinion; it is my intention to collect the beſt information that can be obtained of the real tranſactions, and after examining, to the beſt of my judgement, the accounts given by the contending parties, I ſhall then have no difficulty in declaring to you ſincerely the point of view in which theſe matters preſent themſelves to me.—I have not the preſumption however to ſuppoſe, that any judgment that may happen to be formed by me on this ſubject, is to have influence in forming or altering the opinions of others.

It may eaſily be ſuppoſed, that in this enquiry, I wiſh exceedingly that I may have reaſon to think that my brother has acted properly, and in ſuch a manner as may entitle him to the approbation of the public; ſo conſcious am I of the earneſtneſs of this wiſh, that I ſhall endeavour as much as poſſible to be upon my guard againſt it's miſleading my

judgment;

judgment; nor ſhall I willingly ſuffer myſelf to be engaged, either in any precipitate unauthorized defence or approbation of my brother's conduct, or in any attack upon the conduct of others with whom he has happened to differ upon this occaſion.

I will fairly own to you, that the arreſting and confining the perſon of a Governor appears to me a ſtrong meaſure, and ſuch as requires very powerful reaſons to juſtify it;—I ſhall further acknowledge, that if the accounts given by one party of the mode in which this was accompliſhed, and of the circumſtances attending it be ſtrictly true, there is ſomething in it which conveys to me a very diſagreeable impreſſion; nor ſhall I attempt to reconcile to the minds of others, what I find ſo difficult to reconcile to my own.

If the facts as ſtated could be ſuppoſed to be true, and that the only defence for the mode in which the arreſt of Lord Pigot's perſon was conducted and completed ſhall be, that there was no other poſſible method of avoiding bloodſhed and civil war, the fate of the perſon unfortunately obliged to make the option in ſuch an alternative muſt have been very diſagreeable and diſtreſſing; for I can hardly ſuppoſe a man ſo conſtituted, as not to feel ſtrong reluctance and averſion to employ the methods aſcribed by one party to Colonel Stuart in the accompliſhment of Lord Pigot's arreſt.

It is ſo improbable that theſe things ſhould have happened in the manner they are related, and if ſtrong meaſures have been reſorted to at Madras, the materials for judging of the neceſſity of them are at preſent ſo incomplete, that juſtice and candour require us to ſuſpend our judgements with regard to the conduct of the principal actors, until that conduct and the motives of it are properly inveſtigated, and that all parties ſhall have an opportunity of being heard.

Great pains I underſtand have been taken in various quarters, not only to excite the greateſt degree of prejudice againſt my brother's conduct, but to hurry the Directors and Proprietors into precipitate opinions and reſolutions, which are of ſuch a nature, as infer both judgment and condemnation before trial.

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I am therefore under the neceffity of fubmitting to your confideration fome circumftances entitled to weight with the Directors and Proprietors, for difpofing them to fufpend fuch opinions or refolutions until my brother's conduct fhall be fully and fairly inveftigated; and I beg I may be underftood to ftate them with that view only.

In the firft place, it is a certain fact, that the diffenfion and animofity between Lord Pigot and the majority of the Council at Madras took rife long before my brother arrived in India.—He did not arrive there 'till the month of May laft, and I have letters in my poffeffion from him, foon after his arrival, as well as letters from others, mentioning the diftracted ftate in which he found matters there, on account of the difputes and diffenfions between Lord Pigot and the Council.

The fame letters mention, that my brother had hitherto abftained from taking part with either fide in thefe difputes; and that it was his intention to avoid mixing in faction, and to apply himfelf to his own bufinefs in the military line. The advices received by the Company from India fome months ago muft have confirmed thefe facts, and have fatisfied you, that the origin of the diffenfions at Madras was long before before my brother's arrival in that part of the world.

Secondly, I have particular occafion to know, that when my brother left this country it was his wifh and intention to be on the beft terms with Lord Pigot; and for this purpofe he had obtained ftrong letters of recommendation from Lord Pigot's particular friends in this country. Admiral Pigot was, as I underftood from my brother, very obliging on that occafion, in fupplying him with letters to promote the good correfpondence between Lord Pigot and him.

It muft alfo be very evident to every perfon acquainted even with the general account that has been circulated of the tranfactions at Madras,

that, so far as interest is concerned, it appeared to be Colonel's Stuart's interest to have remained on the best terms with Lord Pigot; and as his Lordship did upon two different occasions, in the months of July and August last, offer him the command in chief of all the forces in that country, he by declining these offers, and by obeying the orders of the majority of the Council, deprived himself of a situation and advantages much more considerable than any that could be bestowed on him by the party whose orders he obeyed; for the consequence of the part he has acted is, that he remains second in command, without a seat in Council, and without any advantages or emoluments comparable to those enjoyed by the Commander in Chief; whereas, if he had espoused Lord Pigot's interest, the immediate command in chief of the army devolved upon him, with a seat in Council, and all the privileges and advantages belonging to the first military situation. His senior officer, Sir Robert Fletcher, then Commander in Chief, being at that time under an arrest to be tried by a Court Martial, there was little chance of Colonel Stuart's not enjoying the command of the army during Lord Pigot's government.

From these circumstances it seems probable, that in the part my brother has acted he has not been guided by self-interest; there may have been an error of judgment in the opinion formed by him of Lord Pigot's conduct, but there is great reason to presume, that the alteration from his original dispositions with regard to his Lordship, and the part he chose of obeying the orders of the majority of the Council, arose not from interested views, but from an opinion that Lord Pigot was acting illegally, and that the majority of the Council was the legal Government, which he was bound to obey.

Here I beg leave to be understood, that it is by no means my intention to assert either that Lord Pigot had acted illegally, or that the legal Government was vested in the majority of the Council; I only mean to say,

fay, that it feems to me probable my brother proceeded on thefe ideas; but whether they were well or ill founded I do not pretend to judge.

Thirdly, The ftrong and marked approbation of the Governor-General and Supreme Council in Bengal, feems of itfelf fufficient to prevent any opinions or refolutions unfavourable to Colonel Stuart, at leaft until matters are further examined.

In the letter of 15th September from General Clavering to Colonel Stuart, there is not only an approbation of his conduct, but in terms the moft flattering to him the General gives him applaufe for the honour of conducting *fo difficult and dangerous a bufinefs*, and for the *fpirit* and *magnanimity* with which he had executed it.

When thefe diftinguifhed marks of approbation are beftowed by General Clavering, whofe fenfe of honour, and whofe fentiments of propriety and delicacy of conduct as an officer and a gentleman, are fo well known and eftablifhed, it is but fair and reafonable to prefume, until the contrary is proved, that Colonel Stuart's conduct had not only appeared to the Supreme Council at Bengal right and proper in itfelf, but that in the manner of carrying the order of the Council into execution, and in the mode of arrefting Lord's Pigot's perfon, there had been nothing unhandfome, improper, or unfuitable to the character of a gentleman and an officer.

It appears from General Clavering's letter of the 15th, and from Governor Haftings of the 18th September, that both of them gave great credit to Colonel Stuart for the mode in which Lord Pigot's arreft had been accomplifhed—"*Without bloodfhed, without tumult, and* "*without the violation of one legal form.*" Thefe are the words of Governor Haftings' letter to Mr. Stratton, wherein he talks with a degree of admiration of this as a thing almoft without example; and from General Clavering's letter it appears, that he confidered a war in

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the Carnatic as inevitable, if this laſt deciſive ſtep had not been taken. He ſays to Colonel Stuart, "*Whatever advantages therefore ariſe from the* "*preſervation of ſo faithful an ally* (*the Nabob of Arcot*) *or to the Company's* "*commerce, by the peace of the Carnatic being preſerved, the Company are* "*indebted chiefly to you for them.*"

Such are the expreſſions made uſe of by General Clavering in his letter to my brother, and by Governor Haſtings in his letter to Mr. Stratton, and ſuch the light in which this matter preſented itſelf to the Supreme Council at Bengal after hearing the aſſertions of both parties.

It is not with a view to acquire any poſitive opinion at preſent in favour of my brother's conduct, that I have ſelected from a number of other circumſtances which might have been ſtated in his favour, thoſe which are now ſubmitted to your conſideration, but merely to make uſe of them as reaſons for a ſuſpenſion of any unfavourable judgment or proceedings to his prejudice, until the matter is more fully examined.

I do not wiſh to enter at all into the merits of the queſtion between Lord Pigot and his Council, nor to aſſert or inſinuate any thing to his Lordſhip's prejudice. It is well known that it was my earneſt recommendation to my brother, at leaving this country, to cultivate a good underſtanding with his Lordſhip, whom I had always been accuſtomed to conſider as a reſpectable man, to whom the India Company had been under great obligations at a particular period during the laſt war.

I took occaſion alſo to write to my brother in the ſtrongeſt terms in the month of January, 1776, requeſting and inſiſting with him, that he ſhould confine himſelf entirely to his own buſineſs and profeſſion in the military line, and that he ſhould avoid all interference in the

factions or political intrigues which I understood too often took place in our Settlements in India. This was recommended to him in such a manner, that I have reason to be confident it would have weight with him; and as I find by his letter of 30th September now before me, that he had received mine of January before the late violent disturbances at Madras, it gives me some degree of hope, that the part he took in the business upon the 23d and 24th August was not the result of any preceding spirit of faction or intrigue, but a sudden resolution taken in consequence of his being reduced to the disagreeable alternative, of either disobeying the orders of Lord Pigot, or those of the majority of the Council.

The paragraph in my brother's letter of 30th September, on the above subject, is in these words:

" *I feel in my own breast the greatest inward satisfaction, arising from a* " *cool reflection on what is past; and am particularly happy, that upon an attentive perusal of your long letter, I do not find I can charge myself with* " *a breach of those rules which your friendship prescribes; since I am convinced that, by* not interfering in politicks, *you could not mean, that as a military man I was to obey unlawful authority instead of supporting Government.*"

The conclusion of his letter to me, which is a very long one, and at your command whenever you choose to peruse it, is in these words:

" *The candid part of the world will justify me from the imputation of every* " *selfish and interested view, when it is known, that acting upon constitutional* " *principles, I have at two different times refused the command of the army* " *offered to me by Lord Pigot; and upon this occasion I have exerted myself in* " *defence of the rights of the Company at the hazard of my life. Were it possible for me ever to feel the impression of such motives, it may be reasonably* " *asked, What advantages can possibly be derived to me from my present conduct?*

" *duct? or what is there that this or any other Government can give me, that*
" *I might not have had from Lord Pigot? My conduct in this respect must*
" *remain an incontestable proof to every impartial person of my having acted*
" *from conscience, and from conviction of the rectitude of the cause in which*
" *I was engaged.*

" *Before I take my leave of you, my dear brother, I shall beg leave to re-*
" *peat, what I have already declared to my friend General Clavering, that as*
" *I hope for mercy, I never had any promise, neither am I in possession or ex-*
" *pectation of any private benefit whatever resulting from the change now*
" *brought about in this Government.*"

If you will allow me to shew you the whole of my brother's dispatches upon this occasion, you will perceive, that so far from having any idea of the possibility of prejudices arising against him in this country on account of what he had done, he seems to be under the influence of the strongest conviction, that he had done a most meritorious service to the East-India Company and to the country in general, by preserving peace in the Carnatic, by establishing what appeared to him to be the legal Government, and accomplishing all this without bloodshed or tumult.

So much is he under the influence of that conviction, that in the last letter received from him, dated 10th October, he desires me, on the footing of the services he has upon this occasion rendered to the India Company, and to the British Empire in India, to apply to the Company for the rank to him of Brigadier-General in India by brevet; and further suggests, that as he had been 14 years a Lieutenant-Colonel in the King's service, and had never yet received any mark of favour for the part he acted in the successful storming of the Moro Fort at the Havannah, that he thinks this recent service in India should, with his former services during last war, obtain to him the rank of Colonel in the King's army.

By thus laying before you the ſtate of Colonel Stuart's mind upon this occaſion, as painted in his private letters to a brother, it will readily occur to you, what a ſevere diſappointment and mortification it will be to him, if, inſtead of thoſe publick marks of approbation, which his imagination had already almoſt realized to him, he ſhould find, that his character and conduct upon this occaſion have been attacked in the moſt violent manner, that the circumſtances of his behaviour have been painted in colours the moſt likely to excite prejudices, and even indignation againſt him, before any account had arrived here from himſelf, and before there was an opportunity of informing the Public of the true ſtate of facts, and that, upon no other authority than a letter from Alexandria, from a gentleman known to have taken a very warm part in theſe diſputes, and to be the declared enemy of Colonel Stuart.

I do not mean by this to impute any blame to Admiral Pigot, or the other friends of Lord Pigot in this country, for endeavouring to intereſt the Proprietors and the Publick ſtrongly in his Lordſhip's favour; it was natural for them, believing what they had heard, and thinking as they did of the proceedings at Madras, to be inflamed with zeal for his Lordſhip, and with indignation againſt thoſe who had any ſhare in the events which had happened to him; and, in that temper, it was natural for them to avail themſelves of what may be called the *honeſt prejudices* of the Publick; for theſe prejudices, inſtilled by the letter from Alexandria, were founded on compaſſion for a man conſidered as injured, and indignation at thoſe whom the Publick then conceived to have acted towards him both harſhly and unjuſtly.

But Lord Pigot's friends muſt think it equally natural on my part, to endeavour to prevent theſe prejudices from extending their influence too far in this buſineſs.

In the preſent ſtage of theſe Indian diſputes, before the facts have been properly aſcertained, it is not my wiſh, nor my intention, to make

any assertions, favourable or unfavourable either to Lord Pigot's or to my brother's cause; but I do most sincerely wish, that there may be a full, fair, and impartial examination into the conduct of all the persons at Madras, who have been concerned in the late important transactions there, and that this may be done in the most speedy manner, and in that manner which is most likely to prove effectual for bringing the truth to light, and for making every actor appear to the Publick in his proper colours.

As I cannot doubt, that a measure so requisite for the honour and interest, not only of individuals, but of the India Company, and of the British Nation in general, will be adopted; the object of my present request is no more, than that, in the interval which precedes the enquiry, the Directors and Proprietors of the India Company may be pleased to suspend their opinion of Colonel Stuart's conduct; and that they may also be pleased to abstain, during that interval, from any resolutions, which, by inferring an immediate disapprobation of his conduct, may be essentially prejudicial to him.

You know, Sir, that when my brother went to India, he was appointed second in command, to succeed to the command in chief upon any vacancy by the death, resignation, or removal of Sir Robert Fletcher, the Commander in Chief.

I have been told, that on the 4th of April, before my arrival in London, and very recently after the arrival of the first advices about these disturbances at Madras, a message was sent by the Directors to Lieutenant-Colonel Munro, desiring him to accept of the command in chief at Madras; and that it has even been in agitation to send out another officer second in command there. These steps, if true, have been carried on with so much expedition, and with so little notice to any person concerned on the part of the first and second in command upon the Coast of Coromandel, that I must be excused for thinking it a hard measure

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on the two gentlemen who now fill these stations: it is in effect proceeding to judgment and condemnation of them, even before any notice given to themselves or to their friends to prepare for their defence.

If there is to be a certain number of Commissioners sent to India to enquire into the late disorders at Madras, and to restore peace and good government in that country, I do not deny that it is reasonable and equitable, that during such enquiry the principal actors on all sides, whether in the civil or military service of the Company, should be suspended from their functions, and that others should be appointed to occupy their places, until, by the result of the enquiry, it shall appear whether the persons thus suspended had been faithful or unfaithful servants to the interests of the Company; when such enquiry is completed, let the subsequent fate of every man thus tried, be regulated by his merit or demerit in the transactions which gave rise to the enquiry.

But surely it cannot be your intention, Sir, nor that of the other gentlemen in the Direction of the East-India Company's affairs, to adopt a mode of proceeding in this particular case, which shall have the effect to make disapprobation and punishment precede enquiry.

This is so repugnant to every principle or rule of proceeding hitherto observed, either by the India Company, or by any society of men acquainted with the blessings of the British Constitution, that I cannot persuade myself that there is any serious intention of adopting it.

But it will be adopting it effectually, if any officers are to be sent to Madras, with Commissions to supersede Sir Robert Fletcher and Colonel Stuart, and that for an indefinite period of time.

That a proper officer should be appointed to take the command of the army during the enquiry into the conduct of Sir Robert Fletcher

and Colonel Stuart, is a meafure which cannot with propriety be objected againft; but it is fubmitted, that the commiffion to fuch officer fhould be temporary, to fubfift only 'till the enquiry into the conduct of the prefent firft and fecond in command at Madras fhall be compleated; or at leaft, that the commiffion to be granted to any officer now to be fent to Madras, fhould not be prejudicial either to Sir Robert Fletcher or to Colonel Stuart, in the event of the propofed enquiry terminating in a manner honourable for them.

It muft be admitted on all hands, that it is at leaft a *poffible cafe* that Colonel Stuart, in the part he has acted, in obedience to the orders of the majority of the Council, may, inftead of deferving cenfure or fuperceffion, have actually done what was proper and meritorious on his part.

It is alfo at leaft a *poffible cafe*, that if he has done wrong, or acted irregularly in obeying the orders of the majority of Council, he has been guilty only of an error in judgment, and that his conduct may appear to have been guided by the beft intentions for the intereft of the Company.

Upon thefe fuppofitions, I beg leave to fubmit it to your confideration, and to that of the other gentlemen in the Direction of the Company's affairs, to whom I beg this letter may be communicated as foon as poffible, whether it would not be the fource of much regret and uneafinefs hereafter to yourfelves, if you fhould find, that by a fudden refolution, founded on the firft reports, your conduct to an officer, who in the event fhall be found to have deferved well of the Company, had been fuch, that it was no longer in your power to redrefs the material injury that had been done to him, both in point of fituation and character.

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You will obferve, Sir, that in the whole courfe of this letter, I have not pretended either to approve of my brother's conduct, or to advance any thing againft that of his opponents; I have contended for nothing elfe but a fair and impartial enquiry, and a fufpenfe of decifive judgment until fuch enquiry is completed.

In contending for this equitable conduct, I have not availed myfelf of the intelligence recently received from Madras, by a very reputable and efteemed fervant of the Company, Colonel Capper, who has brought letters and accounts containing fuch a favourable reprefentation of Colonel Stuart's conduct, and beftowing fuch encomiums upon it, as might perhaps have entitled me to ftate it as fomething ftronger than a *mere poffibility*, that his conduct, upon enquiry, may be found to have been meritorious.

To enter into the particulars of the accounts thus received by Colonel Capper, would be engaging further in this conteft than I have any inclination to do at prefent, and further than I can at any rate permit myfelf to do, until I am poffeffed of full information on both fides of the queftion.

It is fufficient for the only purpofe I have in view, that of an impartial enquiry, and 'till that happens, a fufpenfe of judgment, that there exifts a *probability*, or even a *poffibility*, of Colonel Stuart's having acted fuch a part as entitles him to approbation, or even fuch a part as does not render him obnoxious to cenfure and punifhment.

This *probability*, or, if that is difputed, this *poffibility*, which no man can deny to exift, entitles me, without prefumption, to expect from the Eaft-India Company that meafure of juftice to my brother, which the laws and conftitution of this country never refufe, even to the moft abandoned wretches, when accufed of the moft enormous crimes, that they fhall not be punifhed, 'till they are tried and heard in their defence.

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Let my brother ſtand or fall by a fair trial and inveſtigation of his conduct; but I truſt with confidence in the juſtice and equity of the Honourable Company, that no ſuch permanent and prejudicial meaſure will be adopted at preſent, as may, by virtually depriving him of his ſituation and proſpects in the ſervice, inflict a very ſevere puniſhment and cenſure upon Colonel Stuart untried and unheard in his own defence.

I have the honour to be,
With great regard,
Sir,
Your moſt obedient
and moſt humble ſervant,

Berkley Square,
14th April, 1777.

ANDw. STUART.

Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel James Capper to the Honourable the Court of Directors, &c.

Honourable Sirs,

AS I was preſent during the late unhappy diſputes at Madras, although not perſonally concerned in them, and having alſo been charged with the diſpatches which conveyed to your Honourable Court authentic intelligence of the late change of government there, I flatter myſelf you will pardon me for taking the liberty to make ſome *remarks* on Mr. Dalrymple's letter from Alexandria, which I have peruſed in the India-Houſe, and am very ſorry to obſerve, that it is calculated not to inform, but to miſlead thoſe who may give too much credit to it.

I have not yet obtained a copy of that letter, and therefore cannot reply to it ſo particularly as I could wiſh; but ſome parts of it are ſo injurious to the characters of my particular friends, that in juſtice to them, and conſiſtently with my duty to you, I can no longer delay giving a faithful

account of the circumſtances attending the diſplacing Lord Pigot, as they appeared to me and every other unprejudiced perſon on the Coaſt.

Mr. Dalrymple ſays, that the removal of Lord Pigot was effected by the majority, who acted under the influence of the Nabob, and had been concerted long before it took place. The minutes of conſultation from the 20th to the 23d of Auguſt clearly refute this aſſertion. The cauſe of his Lordſhip's arreſt originated in himſelf; for if he had not attempted illegally to ſuſpend ſeven members of the Council, compoſing a majority, he would not have been removed from the chair.

The reſolution for arreſting his Lordſhip did not take place until the 23d Auguſt in the evening, at a meeting of the majority of the Council. In the morning of that day, they agreed to write to the Supreme Council of Bengal, and requeſt " Their aſſiſtance and ſupport," and in the mean time to proteſt againſt the proceedings of Lord Pigot and his party, not with an intention to cauſe any diſturbance in the ſettlement, but merely to acquit themſelves of all reſponſibility as members of the Council, from which they were then violently excluded. I cannot more clearly ſhew the moderation of the majority of the Council, in forbearing to aſſert their rights to the legal authority of government, when Lord Pigot attempted to ſuſpend Meſſieurs Stratton and Brooke, than by quoting in this place part of a letter written by the Governor-General and Council of Bengal to Mr. Stratton, &c. dated the 10th September.

" After ſo recent an example of the diſpoſition of your late Preſi-
" dent, as appeared in his conduct towards the Nabob, and while our
" deciſion of the appeal that was made to us by the Nabob on that occa-
" ſion was yet depending, we could not be but greatly alarmed for the
" peace of the Carnatic, when we heard of the unexampled meaſures
" by which Lord Pigot had determined to uſurp the power of your go-
" vernment, by attempting to procure a majority in the Council by
" violence, in order to ſanctify his meaſures. Thus deprived of the

" aid on which we had depended, from the integrity of a large majority, " in the members of your late Council, who had ſtedfaſtly oppoſed the " hoſtile meaſures adopted by his Lordſhip againſt the Nabob, what " hope could we any longer entertain, that our orders on theſe points, " which were contained in our letter of the 7th of Auguſt, would not " be openly diſobeyed, or covertly eluded, when the execution of them " was left to the diſcretion of that power they were meant to control."

If the Governor-General and Supreme Council were ſurprized at Lord Pigot's conduct, in attempting violently to ſuſpend two members of the Council, they muſt have been greatly alarmed at his ſubſequent behaviour. When the proteſt was carried by the Notary Publick to his Lordſhip, and ſeveral copies of it had been diſtributed amongſt the Company's ſervants, both civil and military, Lord Pigot immediately ſummoned his party, who unanimouſly agreed to ſuſpend the other members of the Council, and to put Sir Robert Fletcher under arreſt, " for exciting ſedition amongſt the troops." This meaſure is by many thought of itſelf ſufficient to juſtify the gentlemen of the majority of the Council for arreſting the perſon of Lord Pigot, as no other means were left of ſaving the life of the Commander in Chief, who was threatened with death for acting according to his opinion as a member of the Board. But the majority were ſtill more induced to aſſume the reins of government, to prevent the uncertainty in which the ſervants, both civil and military, would be left under a doubtful authority, to avoid the great confuſion and danger which might ariſe from it in the army, and above all, to protect the honour and alliance of the Nabob of Arcot, who knew that Lord Pigot and his party had voted his being removed from the ſettlement, who was apprehenſive of being diſgracefully driven from Madras, and therefore was prepared to fly to ſome corner of the Carnatic, or perhaps terrified at the idea of ſuch a violation of the rights, which are inherent even in the pooreſt Britiſh ſubject, he might have ſought that aſylum with the French at Pondicherry, which

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an Englifh Governor wifhed to refufe him in a part of his own dominions, within the Company's power.

Thefe feveral alarming confiderations, independently of their own rights as a majority of the Council, induced them to deviate from the line they had adopted of waiting the determination of the Supreme Council, and to avail themfelves of the power they had in their hands of feizing Lord Pigot, which had they delayed but for twenty-four hours, their forbearance would infallably have produced violent commotions in the Settlement, and moft probably have given rife to a war with the French, who certainly would not have neglected to avail themfelves of fuch a favourable opportunity, knowing, as they do from experience, how much their diffenfions facilitated the Englifh conqueft of Pondicherry.

Mr. Dalrymple has not contented himfelf with cenfuring the meafure of fufpending Lord Pigot, but alfo very artfully endeavoured to intereft the publick in favour of his caufe, by a fhameful mifreprefentation of Colonel Stuart's conduct. The intemperate language in which he has related the account of Lord Pigot's arreft, muft in a great meafure leffen the credibility of that relation; and thofe who are acquainted with Colonel Stuart's character as a foldier and a man, are convinced, without even hearing his defence, that he is incapable of the brutality and treachery attributed to him by Mr. Dalrymple.

With your permiffion, Gentlemen, I will inform you of the behaviour of the Colonel on that occafion, as he openly and uncontradictedly related it himfelf, and as it was confirmed to me by many other refpectable perfons in your fervice at Madras.

I muft beg leave to premife, that Lord Pigot in the month of July had put Sir Robert Fletcher under arreft, and offered the command of the army to Colonel Stuart. The Colonel reprefented to his Lordfhip,

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that it was not in his power as Prefident, acting independently of his Council, to put the Commander in Chief under an arreft; and to prevent any bad confequences from difputes arifing between the Governor and Commander in Chief, he offered to ftand mediator between them. This voluntary interpofition on the part of Colonel Stuart, was much to his credit and ferves as an inconteftible proof of his difinterestednefs and defire of preventing diffenfions. He fortunately fucceeded in his mediation, and two members of the Council were fent by Lord Pigot from the Board to apologize to Sir Robert, and to requeft his attendance in Council.

When Lord Pigot, on the 23d of Auguft, again offered the command of the army to Colonel Stuart, the Colonel reminded him of what had happened before, adding, that his fituation was particularly delicate; for if he blindly accepted of his Lordfhip's offer, and that Sir Robert Fletcher was illegally put under arreft a fecond time, he became obnoxious to military law for affuming the command of the army; he therefore hoped his Lordfhip would pleafe to allow him the perufal of the minutes of confultation of the 3 or 4 preceding days, and then he would give him an anfwer. His Lordfhip admitted the propriety of Colonel Stuart's requeft, but told him he would talk with him further on the fubject another time.

On the 24th, in the morning, in confequence of Lord Pigot's filence, Colonel Stuart wrote him the following letter:

To the Right Honourable Lord Pigot.

Fort St. George, Auguft 24th, 1776, Saturday, 7 o'clock in the Morning.

MY LORD,

" AS I am vey imperfectly informed of the fteps which have led to
" the honour conferred on me yefterday, and not *thinking myfelf entitled*
" to

"*to a feat in the Council*, as matters are at prefent circumftanced; I hope
"it will be agreeable to your Lordfhip, to allow me this day to perufe
"the confultations or other papers paffed in Council on thefe unhappy
"differences. I doubt not but your Lordfhip will find this requeft
"reafonable, becaufe the practice of this fervice gives fuch information
"to the perfon commanding the troops from his feat in Council. I
"do not defire to put your Lordfhip to the trouble of ordering copies
"for my ufe; the Secretary need only to point out to me what is pro-
"per for my information, fo as to do my duty to my Honourable Em-
"ployers, according to my oath of fidelity for the public fervice, and
"with honour to myfelf. I therefore truft your Lordfhip will be plea-
"fed to agree to this requeft *before* I am called upon *to execute any publick*
"*act by authority*. I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

"(Signed) J. STUART."

Colonel Stuart waited at home until one o'clock that day, in expectation of being called into Council, and then went to the Government-Houfe, to know Lord Pigot's determination; his Lordfhip told him it was not then a proper time to fpeak about bufinefs, and defired he would fit down to dinner. When they rofe from table, Colonel Stuart renewed his requeft; Lord Pigot afked him, if he meant to bargain for the command of the army? The Colonel anfwered in the negative. His Lordfhip then faid, "Come in the evening to the Gardens, and "we will fettle this point before fupper." Colonel Stuart found, that Lord Pigot wifhed only to procraftinate his anfwer, in expectation that he (Colonel Stuart) would give out fome order as Commander in Chief, by which means he fhould be infnared, right or wrong, into the efpoufal of his Lordfhip's caufe; he therefore hefitated no longer what part to act, but, in confequence of an order received from the majority, he determined, from that inftant, to affift them in attempting to get poffeffion of the Fort, and of the Company's records.

Averſe even to apparent duplicity, he was obliged to act with caution; for if Lord Pigot had diſcovered his intentions, many people, who now cenſure his (Colonel Stuart's) conduct, might have had cauſe to lament, at this time, the death of ſome relation or friend, and then they would have condemned him as a madman, for executing, with open violence, what might have been equally affected with addreſs.

The appointment Lord Pigot had given Colonel Stuart to meet at the Gardens, enabled him to form a plan for ſeizing his Lordſhip without any confuſion. Lieutenant-Colonel Edingtoun and Captain Lyſaught were ſtationed in the road with a carriage, and ordered to ſtop Lord Pigot in his way to the Gardens. Colonel Stuart alſo accepted an offer made to him by Lord Pigot of accompanying him in the ſame carriage, that he might prevent his Lordſhip, when he ſaw the Seapoys advancing towards him, from attempting to drive paſt the party, which infallibly muſt have produced reſiſtance, force, and perhaps bloodſhed.

When Colonel Edingtoun ſtopt the carriage, Colonel Stuart, inſtead of the rude and brutal ſpeech put into his mouth by Mr. Dalrymple, apologized to his Lordſhip in the following words: "I am extremely "concerned to be employed in this diſagreeable buſineſs, and much "more ſo to have recourſe to any thing like a ſtratagem; however, I "thought this mode preferable to expoſing your Lordſhip's perſon, "and the lives of your friends, to the riſk of a public attack; eſpe- "cially as I flatter myſelf my character as an officer is ſufficiently "known, to ſecure me from the ſuſpicion of acting thus from an ap- "prehenſion of my own ſafety; Captain Lyſaught will convey your "Lordſhip to the Mount, where Major Horne will ſhew you every re- "ſpect that you can poſſibly receive in your preſent ſituation."

Colonel Stuart twice refuſed the command of the army when earneſtly preſſed to accept of it, he therefore cannot reaſonably be

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suspected of having been actuated by self-interest; his distinguished courage exempts him from the suspicion of fear in privately arresting Lord Pigot, and his well-known good sense acquits him from any accusation of unnecessary rudeness, where civility would be equally effectual.

A slight revision of these facts, most of which stand on the Honourable Company's records, I am in hopes will justify Colonel Stuart's conduct. If he had disobeyed the majority, and attached himself to Lord Pigot's party, especially after his superior officer, Sir Robert Fletcher, the Commander in Chief, had declared and acted in favour of the majority of the Council, and in opposition to Lord Pigot's pretensions, a civil war in the settlement was inevitable; and if the majority had prevailed, which most probably would have happened, from a general established opinion both among the civil and military servants, that the powers of government were vested in the majority, and not to be destroyed by the obstinacy of a President, Colonel Stuart must in that case have fallen the first sacrifice; therefore this gentleman was either to support the generally admitted legal government, and to prevent any confusion and bloodshed, or to act contrary to his own opinion, be the means of exciting a civil war in the settlement, and most probably suffer an ignominious death.

It is not for me to determine how far he may have erred in supporting the majority of the Council against Lord Pigot; but I am persuaded that he acted from a real opinion that his duty, and the interest of the Company required him to support that party. When the storm is blown over, that has been raised against them by the misrepresentations of his adversaries, I make no doubt but justice will take place, and then he will be as much commended as he has hitherto been condemned.

I will close my present remarks upon Mr. Dalrymple's letter, by explaining to your Honours, what he calls bribing the army. By the

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the book of military regulations on the Coaſt of Coromandel, all Europeans, both officers and ſoldiers were allowed batta, or travelling expenſes at the rate of 25 miles per day. It is obvious to every perſon acquainted with the climate, that this regulation muſt either be ineffectual or very deſtructive to the army; for an European, eſpecially one newly arrived in the country, cannot march at that rate without endangering his health; from a principle of humanity therefore as well in regard to œconomy, in the month of July, as Commiſſary-General, I propoſed at a Committee of Accounts, that Cadets, Non-commiſſioned Officers, and private men, ſhould be allowed batta at the rate of 12 miles per day. In the hurry of buſineſs at the Board, during the months of July and Auguſt, the propoſal lay on the table, but when Lord Pigot was ſuſpended, and the hurry abated, a Member of the Board moved for its being taken into conſideration, and my propoſal was agreed to; not to bribe the army to ſupport the cauſe of the majority, but to ſave the Eaſt-India Company at leaſt £.5000 per annum, in their recruiting expenſes and hoſpital charges, and alſo to prevent the deſtruction of the moſt valuable part of the Company's troops.

I hope, Gentlemen, you will forgive me for alſo taking notice of this addreſs of a letter which a Mr. Smith, of Madras, took upon him to write you on the political affairs of your Preſidency, which he is neither concerned in nor underſtands. Mr. Smith is not Mayor of Madras, he is only one of the Aldermen and a free merchant in the place; in neither of theſe capacities could it become his duty to trouble you on theſe ſubjects. But ſuppoſing him really Mayor, and that he had addreſſed you in the character that he improperly aſſumes, his advice ought undoubtedly to have been confined to the mere fact of the arreſt of Lord Pigot, the application to the Court for a Writ of Habeas Corpus and the Court's refuſal. Does it become a Judge to take a decided part? What weight can his teſtimony carry, who ſets out by declaring his opinion before he ſtates the facts? and with affected

affected compaſſion inſinuates the baſeſt ſlanders againſt the parties concerned? The information, accompanied with clumſy wit, which he pretends to give reſpecting me, I think too inſignificant to demand my attention. His falſhoods and miſrepreſentations through a courſe of years to his correſpondents in Europe, are as notorious as his illicit trade to the French Iſlands, and both are equally reprobated by every honeſt man.

I am, Honourable Sirs,

Your moſt obedient and faithful ſervant,

Jermyn Street,
19th April, 1777.

JAMES CAPPER.

Letter from Edward Cotsford, Eſquire,

To the Honourable the Court of Directors of the Engliſh Eaſt-India Company.

GENTLEMEN,

IN conſequence of the reſolution you have lately come to, I may probably be called upon by the Honourable Court to proceed to my ſtation at Fort St. George at a very ſhort notice.

It is a duty I owe to myſelf, and well becoming an honeſt man, to examine now the ground I am to ſtand upon to avoid encountering difficulties beyond my ſtrength hereafter. This, joined to my duty to the Company, as being their immediate ſervant and a member of the Council at Madras, I conſider as authorizing, and even obliging me to take this matter up in a more particular manner than I might be juſtified in doing if not perſonally concerned.

There is but little doubt, I think, that the authority of your government is removed from your Preſident and Council, and reſides in the

Commander of your forces, and is a defpotifm of the worft kind, as having no qualifying ingredients to foften and reftrain it, which States in their natures defpotic have. It may therefore be called a lawlefs power.

The fource of this extraordinary event lies deeper than the trivial circumftance of whether this or that man fhould be fent to refide at Tanjore; that was but little more than a fpark falling upon matter already fo inflamable, that nothing but the application was neceffary for fetting it in a blaze.

The power of the Nabob, in confequence of the reduction of his enemies, and through his alliance with the crown of Great Britain, as fet forth in the treaty of Paris, and his purfuing an intereft in many important points diametrically oppofite to that of the Company, added to the taking from your Governor a moft effential part of his executive authority, and vefting it in your *military* Commander in Chief, as you term him, appear to me to be the real caufes of this alarming revolution.

There was a time when the intereft of the Nabob and the India Company was one; and I think it will be granted, that the obligations they owe each other from their earlieft connection to the prefent period, have been mutual and equal; but the ftate of things is fo much altered, that the Nabob now overlooks his former fupporters, and the Company fear the man, who was at once the inftrument of their profperity, and the object of their pity.

A Governor, the moft virtuous and upright, and fupported with all the power you can legally give him, would find it difficult to do the Company's bufinefs effectually with fo great a power counteracting him; but with his authority fo much diminifhed, he fhould govern a

community of men like angels, or be ſomething more than man himſelf to ſurmount a difficulty almoſt inſuperable.

The Governor-General and Council in Bengal have approved in very ſtrong terms of the violent act committed upon the perſon of your Governor, and have founded their judgment chiefly upon his having infringed the treaty of Paris, by wounding the independent rights of the Nabob of the Carnatic.

There are two queſtions, the anſwers to which will clear this ſubject of much of its ambiguity: Is the Nabob, *bona fide*, an independent Prince? Has your Preſident in his conduct fulfilled your orders, and attended to the honour and advantage of the India Company? The firſt queſtion I am ſure you can yourſelves reſolve without my aſſiſtance; and the other it is poſſible (to ſome) may require a further elucidation than the documents at preſent in your poſſeſſion can give.

I muſt however take leave to obſerve, that if your Government at Bengal ſhew a diſpoſition to puniſh in ſo violent and illegal a manner what it conſiders as a breach of the treaty of Paris, your officers may ſuppoſe they will be juſtified in giving up all fortreſſes ſituate out of the Company's jaghire, at the requiſition of the Nabob; and to judge from the preſent appearance of things, I think the keeping poſſeſſion muſt depend greatly upon the virtue and integrity of thoſe who have charge of them.

The arguments for ſupporting the Nabob's independence would ſerve well as an oſtenſible colour to a conduct it might be neceſſary to obſerve with reſpect to an enemy, but to uſe them only for weakening your own eſtabliſhment and your influence with the Country Powers is to me unaccountable. I find no difficulty in conceiving that many things may be done by your Governor and Council, highly honourable to themſelves and beneficial to the Company, which may nevertheleſs operate

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ſo as in ſome degree to affect the Nabob's independence; and if the good they can do on one ſide is liable to be conſidered in the ſame degree as faulty and reprehenſible towards the other by their conſtituents, I ſee no path left for a man of honour and integrity to go in.

As I wiſh the Company's proſperity moſt ſincerely, I ſhould be glad to ſee ſuch reſolutions adopted as would effectually re-eſtabliſh the conſtitutional power of your Governor. This only can afford a reaſonable aſſurance to the gentlemen of your Council, that they are ſafe in their perſons and reputation, and may give their opinions freely and without fear in all matters deliberated at the Council Board.

Being myſelf in a ſituation liable to experience the good or ill effect of what you may now determine, what I have ſaid above I humbly offer as a remonſtrance againſt the power unconſtitutionally exerciſed by thoſe holding the adminiſtration of your affairs at Madras, and the evils of which I cannot think, in your reſolutions recently made publick, you have ſo fully provided againſt, as the great importance of the caſe requires.

I ſhall now propoſe four points to your conſideration, the execution of which might greatly forward the re-eſtabliſhment of your affairs on the coaſt of Coromandel.

Firſt, *The Nabob ſhould be prevailed upon to reſide more within the centre of his dominions, by which (independent of the advantages that would follow to the Company) he might be enabled to give more diſpatch to the internal management of his own government.*

As the power of the Nabob is now become a real inconvenience, and you are to encounter it in the beſt way you are able, I think your Governor enters the liſts againſt him upon very unequal terms. He, a deſpotic Prince, having in hands the riches and whole power of his country,

country, your authority only delegated, and veſted in a Governor and his Council, with whom, ſeparately, the Nabob may deſcend to private conferences, for the advancement of his own purpoſes, and when pretending to be the beſt ſupport of your government, obſerving a conduct, poſſibly very reprehenſible, were he amenable to our laws; Gaining early and conſtant information of what paſſes at your Councils, and interfering in your political conduct—Purchaſing all the houſes which are offered to ſale, by which your ſervants may (in ſome degree through neceſſity) be under an obligation to him for houſes to live in—Borrowing money at exorbitant intereſt, and by that means atonce involving the fortunes of your ſervants, and indirectly purchaſing their attention to his intereſt, in order to ſecure their property—Introducing exceſſive luxury into your ſettlement, which may have forwarded the late revolution, as having a tendency to deſtroy order and ſubordination—Preventing the courſe of juſtice, as perſons guilty of crimes may, by taking the Nabob's protection, to be ſecured from puniſhment.

Theſe are ſome of the bad conſequences attending the Nabob's reſidence ſo near the ſeat of your Government, and it does not appear to me that theſe are ſufficient reaſons for his remaining there to counterbalance them.

Second. *The Nabob ought not to rent the Jaghire, it increaſing his influence in the country, and proportionably leſſening your own.* It has *been urged* (though I think the fact may be doubted) that the rent he pays exceeds the revenue he draws from the country; but, admitting it to be ſo, not being ſubject to your control, he may poſſibly oppreſs the country, which a perſon ſubject to your juriſdiction could not do with impunity; ſo that if you receive a little more money, it may be at the expenſe of the people's happineſs and your own future ſecurity. Another very bad effect is, that it aſſiſts greatly in making the Nabob your treaſurer, which is certainly very impolitick.

Third. The Prefident of your Council *fhould poffefs his military authority, as he held it before your regulations to Bengal on that head, in your letter of March 29th, 1774. He fhould likewife have the privilege of convening and adjourning the Council, and putting all queftions at the Board.*

It does not follow that the Governor, by being the Commander in Chief, can difpofe of the army at his pleafure; for refiding conftantly in Madras, as being at the head of the civil authority, the immediate charge of the foldiery will be in the hands of another. A rivalfhip might fubfift between the officer commanding and the Governor, but that would rather prevent the latter from acquiring an undue influence in the army, than operate to the Company's detriment. If your Governor had been the exprefs Commander in Chief, and there had been no room for doubting his military authority, an officer would hardly have dared to feize his perfon.

It is unneceffary to fay that the Commander in Chief, under the Prefident, fhall have fuch and fuch powers, his fituation naturally gives him all the power he ought to have; and when in the field at the head of the troops, his opinion muft in general be affented to by the Board; or indeed, more properly fpeaking, cannot be controverted: except he fhould obferve a conduct, either through weaknefs or defign, manifeftly tending to the detriment of the Company's affairs.

We learn from hiftory and the experience of former times, that however free a ftate may be, the power in its diftant fettlements and provinces muft in a greater degree refide in one man, otherwife he might not be able to carry fuch orders into execution as the publick good might make neceffary. And as diftant poffeffions cannot be maintained (at leaft in countries fubject to a defpotic government) without a ftanding military force, the great bufinefs is to draw all the advantages to the State from that force, without fuffering it to control the laws, and endanger the publick

publick liberty. Ancient Rome invefted her Governors of provinces with the civil, military, and judicial authority; and your Governor at Madras, until 1774, was Prefident of the Council, Commander in Chief of the forces, and Chief Juftice in the Civil Court. Some temporary oppreffions to individuals might have been the confequence, which an appeal to the laws of the kingdom will redrefs, but I have never heard that your eftablifhment has been in the leaft danger from it. If no appeal lay from this government to a fuperior power, I admit it would be truly defpotic, but it appears to me, that the ftrength refiding in your Governor, is the beft and only fecurity to poffeffions at fo great a diftance.

Fourth. *It is highly neceffary, that no fervant of the Company have any intercourfe with the Nabob, but with the privity or through the medium of the Prefident.* This is I know conformable to the orders of the Company, but I underftand they have been lately voted not to be neceffary by your fervants at Madras.

It may perhaps feem to fome, that granting too great a power to a Governor may be difpenfed with; for my part, being no friend to any thing arbitrary, I fhall readily allow it, if any thing more efficacious for the public fecurity can be pointed out; but if not, your dependance muft be upon the goodnefs of your choice of the perfon executing that great authority, who if he betrays his country, by wantonly or wickedly abandoning your intereft, fhould lofe all that he can lofe on earth; and if your powers fall fhort for inflicting a punifhment adequate to the crime, you fhould feek redrefs from the legiflature, as you have already done on the fubject of your Bengal affairs.

If the power of your Governor will bear dimunition, it would perhaps be more adviseable to take from him that which he exercifes as Chief Juftice, in which there is lefs danger, and is more fuitable to the fpirit of our conftitution, than the depriving him of his military powers.

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Much more might be ſaid on this important ſubject and I hope and doubt not it will be fully diſcuſſed at the approaching General Court.

I am,
Gentlemen,
with the greateſt reſpect,
your very devoted,
and obedient ſervant,

New Bond-Street,
April 20th, 1777.

EDWARD COTSFORD.

Extracts of Proceedings of the Governor and Council at Fort St. George, in their Publick and Revenue Departments; containing Debates on the propriety of appointing a Chief and Council at Tanjore, and other Subjects on which the Majority have differed in opinion from the Preſident and Minority of the ſaid Council.

Extract of Fort St. George General Conſultations, 28th June, 1776.

THE Right Honourable the Preſident informs the Board, that when he was at Tanjore, the Rajah took frequent occaſions of expreſſing his grateful ſenſe of the Company's generoſity towards him, and appeared ſincerely deſirous of ſtrengthening his connections with them by every means in his power. Amongſt other things he mentioned, that it would be very agreeable to him, if the Company would ſend proper perſons to attempt an inveſtment in his country, where they might be ſure of meeting with every ſupport and aſſiſtance that could be received from his authority.

The Preſident having ſince reflected upon the Rajah's propoſal, is of opinion, that the Company will derive advantage by accepting it, as it will give them an opportunity of extending their inveſtment for Europe, and will afford the moſt eligible means of conveying to this Settlement, ſome part at leaſt of the ſurplus which may ariſe out of the four Lacks of

of Pagodas, to be paid annually by the Rajah, after defraying the expenses of the troops to be maintained in his country.

. . . .

The President further observes, that the close connexion which is now formed with the Rajah of Tanjore, opens a new and extensive branch in the affairs of the Company; that the different interests proceeding from that connexion are to be adjusted and maintained; and all disputes and misunderstandings which may arise between the Nabob and the Rajah, or between the Rajah and the Polygars situated near Tanjore, must be enquired into and settled by the particular attention of this Government.

. . . .

The President considering these circumstances, is clearly of opinion, that it will greatly facilitate the measures which may be thought necessary, in consequence of our new engagements with the Rajah, if a Chief and Council were appointed to reside constantly at Tanjore; such an establishment he thinks will give confidence to the Rajah, and convince him that he is really protected; it will enable us to come more readily at the knowledge of his situation, to enquire into and settle any differences that may arise between him and the Nabob, or between him and the neighbouring Polygars; to convey our sentiments and instructions with greater facility, and upon more certain grounds than by a direct correspondence with the Rajah, in which, for want of previous information, many explanations might be necessary, and much time be lost before any thing decisive could be done. The President further adds, that when there is so large a sum as four Lacks of Pagodas to be paid yearly by the Rajah, when there is so considerable a force to be paid and supplied with all kinds of military stores, when there are fortifications to be put in repair, and buildings to be erected within the town, he thinks it highly expedient that all these services should be performed under the immediate inspection and control of a Chief and Council, who will keep regular accounts and diaries of their proceedings to be transmitted to the Presidency.

For these, and many other reasons which might be urged, the President is induced to recommend the appointment in the strongest terms to the Board; and further, to propose the following gentlemen as very proper persons for the stations to which they are named; viz.

Mr. Russell, Chief,

Mr. Edward Frowd, second,

Mr. Gideon Firth, third, and

Mr. William Wynch, fourth.

The orders of the Company, in their separate letter of 12th April, 1775, respecting Tanjore, are then read; also the letter from the Board to Lord Pigot in the military department, dated 24th April last, and the minutes of consultation in the military department 13th May.

After some debate on the subject of the President's proposal, Sir Robert Fletcher desires to enter the following Minute:

Sir Robert Fletcher's Minute.

Sir Rober Fletcher cannot, upon this short notice, give an opinion on the propriety or impropriety of the plan proposed by the President, particularly as the various reasons urged by his Lordship appear to merit much serious deliberation. His Lordship's reason however, respecting the 4 Lacks of Pagodas for the purpose of an investment, Sir Robert Fletcher cannot approve, because the idea is contrary to the Company's positive orders, and because it is his clear opinion that the greatest part of that sum, if not the whole, ought to be appropriated to the payment of the troops to be raised for the defence of the fort and country of Tanjore, and to defray the expense of military stores, &c. If any part of the sum shall not be so appropriated, Sir Robert Fletcher thinks we are bound by the positive orders of our Masters to return such surplus to the Rajah of Tanjore; and Sir Robert Fletcher deems it his duty upon this occasion to declare, that he thinks our present establishment of the

army

army is by no means ſufficient to defend our poſſeſſions, including the Tanjore fort and country.

Several members, in like manner with Sir Robert Fletcher, expreſſing themſelves unable to form any judgment on the Preſident's propoſal, without having further time to conſider it, Sir Robert Fletcher moves the previous queſtion, which the Preſident would not ſuffer, he conſidering it an innovation.

He further urges the neceſſity of coming to a ſpeedy determination; and amongſt other things obſerves, that eſteeming it a matter of great moment, he had requeſted Mr. Dawſon to favour him with his attendance to-day; but after what Mr. Dawſon had ſaid at the opening of the Council concerning his health, and the preparations he was making for his voyage, he could not with any propriety requeſt his attendance again.

Mr. Dawſon replies, that as a good ſervant of the Company he cannot refuſe his aſſiſtance, when it is eſſential for the Company's intereſt, and he will be ready to come to the Board any future day that may be appointed for taking the Preſident's propoſal into conſideration. The Preſident then recommends, that Monday next be appointed for that purpoſe, which is agreed to.

Fort St. George, 8th July, 1776.

Monday the 8th.

AT A CONSULTATION,

P R E S E N T,

The Right Honourable Lord Pigot, Prefident,

George Stratton,	Sir Robert Fletcher,
George Dawfon,	Henry Brooke,
Claud Ruffell,	Alexander Dalrymple,
Charles Floyer,	John Maxwell Stone,
Archdale Palmer,	Francis Jourdan,

George Mackay.

Prefident moves, a Chief and Council be appointed to Tanjore.

THE Right Honourable the Prefident having affembled the Council this morning for the purpofe of determining the queftion before them, relative to the appointment of a Chief and Council at Tanjore, now moves, that that appointment, as recommended by him in Confultation the 28th June, may pafs.

The votes of the feveral members being taken on the Prefident's motion, are as follows:

Mr. Mackay againft the motion, for the reafons contained in the following minute, which he defires may be entered.

My reafons for not affenting to the Right Honourable the Prefident's motion to appoint Mr. Ruffell Chief, and Meffieurs Frowd, Firth, and Wynch, a Council for Tanjore, are, that I think, in the firft place, a Chief and Council totally unneceffary in that country, that I think fuch an appointment contrary to the fpirit of the Company's orders by the Grenville. Secondly, That if I thought it for the Company's intereft to fend a Chief and Council to Tanjore, I fhould object to Mr.

Ruſſell being appointed, becauſe the Court of Directors have already ordered him on a ſervice which they think very important, I mean the Committee of Circuit, of which Mr. Ruſſell is now Preſident, by Mr. Dawſon's being permitted to go home on account of his health.

GEO. MACKAY.

Mr. Jourdan againſt the motion, becauſe he thinks the appointment of a Chief and Council at Tanjore unneceſſary, and inconſiſtent with the ſpirit of the Company's orders.

Mr. Palmer againſt the motion, for the following reaſons, which he delivers in writing:

I do object to the motion, as I do not ſee the advantages that the Preſident mentions will accrue to the Company from this meaſure's being adopted. If his Lordſhip means the eſtabliſhment of an inveſtment, as I conceive he does, it does not appear to me that ſuch can ariſe, as I am of opinion, that was ſuch a meaſure thought proper, no ſtep can be ſo proper as an increaſe of that to the northward. I do further object as I think it cannot meet with the approbation of our Honourable Maſters.

Mr. Stone for the motion, for the reaſons urged by the Preſident.

Mr. Floyer againſt the motion, for the reaſons contained in the following minute entered by him.

1ſt, Becauſe the nomination of a Chief and Council to Tanjore is, in my opinion, directly contrary to the ſpirit, if not the words, of the Honourable Company's commands tranſmitted to us by the Grenville, in the following paragraph of their ſeparate letter, the 12th April, 1775, Par. 7.

" You are however in our name to assure the King of Tan-
" jore, that no diminution of his authority over his subjects is
" intended by us, and that we will severely punish any military officer,
" or Company's servant, who shall in any respect interfere in the affairs
" of his Government; and you are to take especial care that this article
" be punctually fulfilled on the part of the Company."

Secondly, Because I think one of the reasons urged at the Board, in support of the nomination of the Chief and Council, viz. " That as " the Rajah of Tanjore had stipulated to pay annually to the Company " four Lacks of Pagodas for the protection of his country, a sum " expected to exceed the military disbursements of the Company for " that purpose, the expenditure of a part of the surplus, in the pro- " vision of an investment, would prevent a drain of treasure from the " Tanjore country," is expresly provided against in the latter part of the 6th paragraph of the said commands: " And you are likewise to " insist upon having an assignment of revenues made to the Com- " pany, sufficient for the maintenance of the said troops, and for " providing military stores necessary for the defence of the garrison." And again, in the 8th paragraph, " You are also to assure the King of " Tanjore, that particular accounts of the expense of the garrison " shall be laid before him every three months, or so often as he shall " require it; that no extravagance shall be permitted, nor any im- " proper charge shall be allowed in such accounts; and that if the " annual amount thereof shall at any time be less than the revenues " assigned to the Company, the surplus of the said revenue shall be " faithfully returned to him; but if the expense of the garrison shall " exceed the amount of the revenues so assigned, then the King of " Tanjore shall make good the deficiency."

In the letter from the King of Tanjore to the President, bearing date the 12th April last, are the following words:

" In

" In the preſent condition of my country, the placing a garriſon of
" Engliſh troops in the Fort and City of Tanjore is exceedingly
" neceſſary; but beſides this garriſon, if the Company will allow more
" troops alſo for the protection of my whole country, this alſo will be
" highly proper. If, by the favour of Heaven, this be put in execu-
" tion, neither I nor any of my family will need to apprehend that the
" calamities of war will fall upon this country again; and if the
" Company will only favour me thus far, I will with pleaſure aſſign
" them, out of my revenues, the ſum of four Lacks of Pagodas per
" annum for their military expenſes; the mode of payment as
" follows: November, 20,000, December, 40,000, January, 40,000,
" February, 100,000, March, 100,000, April, 100,000."

From the words of the Rajah in the foregoing paragraph, where, in repreſenting the propriety of being allowed more troops for the protection of his whole country, he ſays, " And if the Company will " only favour me thus far, I will with pleaſure aſſign them, &c." It ſhould appear, that in conſideration of the additional number of troops he requires for the protection of his whole country, the Rajah has been induced to offer ſo handſome an aſſignment to the Company as four Lacks of Pagodas for their military diſburſements; and the Council aſſent to the requiſition, in the reply of the Right Honourable the Preſident, dated the 16th May enſuing, to the Rajah's letter, in which are the following words:

" With the greateſt ſatisfaction I tell you, that on my arrival here
" I found every gentleman of the Council was of opinion with me,
" that the requeſt you were pleaſed to make in your letter of the
" 12th of April ſhall be complied with, viz. that your Fort ſhall be
" garriſoned by the Company's troops, and your country protected by
" them likewiſe."

In the courfe of my enquiries into this circumftance, I do not find that the number of Company's troops does now exceed the number employed in the Rajah's country at the time he made this requifition; any expected furplus from the faid affignment fhould therefore, in my opinion, be appropriated to the maintenance of any additional troops which may be fent into the Country of Tanjore, in compliance with the requifition of the Rajah, in preference to fuch furplus being employed in the provifion of an inveftment. And here I cannot help obferving, that the profpect of furplus is yet very diftant. The Company's troops in the Tanjore Kingdom, and all military difburfements whatfoever, muft be maintained from the Company's Treafury from the month of April laft to November following, when we fhall have an account of feven months arrears to fettle with the Rajah; and in the three fucceeding months the Company are to receive from him only one Lack of Pagodas, and the full amount of the affignment not till April next, by three equal monthly payments; a period within three months of the time we might expect the orders of our Honourable Mafters in reply to our intended difpatches by the Grenville as well refpecting the appropriation of any furplus that may arife from the King of Tanjore's affignment, as the Prefident's recommendation of a Chief and Council to Tanjore.

Thirdly, Becaufe I think the refidence of an Englifh Chief and Council, in any country which does not belong to the Company, can have no authority; is not only unprecedented, but improper; but more particularly fo, if fuch refidence, as is propofed, is in the Fort of Tanjore, becaufe I apprehend it muft neceffarily diminifh the authority and confequence of the Rajah over his own fubjects.

CHARLES FLOYER.

Mr. Dalrymple for the motion.

Mr. Ruffell for the motion, as he thinks the meafure neceffary.

Mr.

Mr. Jourdan here desires it may be minuted, that as Mr. Russell is recommended by the President to fill the station of Chief in the proposed appointment, he thinks it irregular and improper that he should give a vote on the present question.

Mr. Brooke against the motion. He further adds, that in his opinion it is improper for a member of the Board to give a vote in appointing himself to any station, which is making him judge in his own cause, and that it should not be regarded as a precedent.

Mr. Dawson for the motion, because, from the difficulties this Government labours under at present, he thinks the proposed appointment necessary; and however it may deviate from the Company's orders, he flatters himself the necessity will justify the proceeding.

Sir Robert Fletcher against the motion, for the reasons contained in the following minute delivered in by him:

"I think the proposed appointment directly contrary to the spirit of the Company's orders; *I think those orders are wise orders*; nor do I see a possibility of an establishment of a Chief and Council within the Fort of Tanjore, without that interference with the Rajah's government which is absolutely forbid by our Masters. If it were necessary to carry on an investment in the Tanjore country, which I do not admit, the country about Devecota, which was offered by the Rajah to the Company, and refused by us, appears to me to be the proper seat of a Chief and Council for the purpose of an investment. With respect to the difference between an investment in the Tanjore country and the northern investment, as well as with respect to the other reasons urged in favour of the plan, I will explain myself further in writing for the information of our Masters.

Mr. Stratton against the motion, for the following reasons:

I cannot agree with the Right Honourable the Prefident in the expediency of the appointment he propofes of a Chief and Council; for even admitting that an inveftment could be carried on at Tanjore on behalf of the Company, (of which I have my doubts) I think it would be very improper to do fo, being of opinion, that the four Lacks of Pagodas promifed annually to be paid by the Rajah of Tanjore, fhould be kept for the purpofe for which it was given, that of paying a force for the protection of his country; the Rajah having exprefsly faid, in his letto the Prefident, that he did with pleafure affign the Company out of his revenues the fum of four Lacks of Pagodas per annum for the military expenfes; and in another part of his letter the Rajah fays, "If the Company will allow fome more troops for the protection of my whole country, this alfo would be very proper." From the foregoing this appearing to be a voluntary offer on the Rajah's part was my reafon for accepting it. If the force now paid by the Company and the Nabob fhould be thought fufficient for the protection both of the Carnatic and the Tanjore country, I am of opinion, in this cafe, the furplus of what may remain to the Rajah's credit be referved in the Treafury, that in cafe of troubles he be charged in proportion as thefe revenues bear to that of the Carnatic; for I cannot think that one country can be attacked or invaded without the other.

Having thus given my opinion in what manner the fum given by the Rajah fhould be appropriated, it is a duty incumbent on me to affign my reafons againft the propofed appointment of a Chief and Council.

From the fpirit of the Company's orders by the Grenville they abfolutely forbid it, and, in my opinion, they will never approve of a Chief and Council being appointed to any fettlemement but what folely belongs to them.

2d. Admitting that fuch an appointment was confonant to their orders, I cannot fee the ufe of it; for a Paymafter can furely pay the troops there,

there, as in the Nabob's garrifons. His accounts are checked by the Commandant of the garrifon, and monthly tranfmitted here. The repairs of the fort are conducted by a Company's engineer agreeably to their orders; and as the Paymafter pays the Cooleys, &c. they are checks on each other. It cannot be otherwife if a Chief and Council were there; nor can the protection of the fort reft on them, but on the officer commanding, who is the proper judge what ftores and provifions are neceffary for it's defence.

3d. Should the Rajah requeft the aid of a military force to quell any troubles, this power, in my opinion, fhould not be lodged in a Chief and Council, nor in the military officer; for when fuch aid is requefted, it is his duty firft to have the fanction of the Government (which can be given him in a fhort time) before he grants it; nor ought this military officer, in any refpect, to interfere in difputes that may happen between the Nabob and the Rajah, but fully to reprefent the fame, that it may be determined by this Government.

The Prefident, after declaring himfelf for the motion, expreffes his concern, that he cannot have the concurrence of the Board in carrying into execution a meafure, which he ftill thinks effentially neceffary for the reafons he has already given. That he does not perceive the force of any of the objections which have been urged againft it; neverthelefs, as a majority of the Board have given their opinion on that fide of the queftion, by which the propofed appointment is rejected, he fhall acquiefce in that determination until the pleafure of the Court of Directors can be known. Carried againft the motion.

The Right Honourable the Prefident further obferves, that fince the meafure recommended by him cannot at prefent take place, he hopes the Board will have no objection to the appointment of a Refident at Tanjore, who may in part be able to fulfil the purpofes he had in view Prefident moves, That Mr. Ruffell be appointed Refident at Tanjore.

 from

from the appointment of a Chief and Council. He then moves, that Mr. Ruſſell be appointed Reſident at Tanjore.

Mr. Mackay is againſt the motion; becauſe he thinks the ſame reaſons which he has already given with reſpect to Mr. Ruſſell, will hold good againſt his going Reſident to Tanjore; he thinks that appointment alſo unneceſſary, becauſe all the Company's buſineſs with the Rajah may be tranſacted through the military officer commanding in his country, the Company's civil ſervant, who ſhall be appointed Paymaſter at Tanjore, and the Rajah's Vackeel at this place.

GEO. MACKAY.

Mr. Jourdan againſt the motion.

Mr. Palmer againſt the motion.

Mr. Stone for the motion.

Mr. Floyer againſt it.

Mr. Dalrymple for it.

Mr. Ruſſell for it.

Mr. Brooke againſt it.

Mr. Dawſon for it.

Sir Robert Fletcher againſt it, becauſe he thinks the military officer is the proper perſon to execute all the duties propoſed for the Reſident, excepting that of inveſtment, which, he has already ſaid, he thinks unneceſſary.

Mr. Stratton for the motion.

The Preſident for the motion.

The

The numbers being equally divided upon this queſtion, it is reſolved, by the caſting voice of the Preſident, that Mr. Ruſſell be appointed Reſident at Tanjore.

Carried for the motion.

Mr. Dawſon now takes his final leave of the Board.

Mr. Dawſon takes leave of the Board.

Pigot
Geo. Stratton
Rob. Fletcher
Henry Brooke
Claud Ruſſell
Charles Floyer
Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan
Geo. Mackay.

Extract of Fort St. George Revenue Conſultations, 28th June, 1776.

SIR Robert Fletcher being of opinion, that the time limited by the Company has been long expired for enforcing their commands reſpecting the Committee of Circuit, he now begs leave to record this his opinion, that he may not in future be in any degree reſponſible or ſubject to blame, either for diſobedience or neglect of thoſe important orders.

Minute of Sir Robert Fletcher reſpecting the Committee of Circuit.

Fort St. George, 26th July, 1776.

Revenue department.

AT A CONSULTATION.

PRESENT,

Friday the 26th.

The Right Honourable Lord Pigot, Prefident.

George Stratton	General Sir Robert Fletcher
Henry Brooke	Claud Ruffell
Alexander Dalrymple	Charles Floyer
John Maxwell Stone	Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan	George Mackay.

Mr. Jourdan informs the Board, that he has delivered a minute to the Secretary, in which there is a motion refpecting the Committee of Circuit. Mr. Mackay defires to fecond the motion. The minute is then read as follows:

Mr. Jourdan's minute refpecting the Committee of Circuit.

The Court of Directors fay, that when the bufinefs of Tanjore fhall be finally fettled, the Committee of Circuit fhall be ordered upon that fervice. When they gave thofe orders, it is very probable they expected refiftance on the part of the Nabob; for they direct us to apply to the Gentlemen at Bengal, if neceffary, and direct them, if applied to, to co-operate in the carrying of their orders relative to Tanjore into execution. This appears alfo from the anxious manner in which they exprefs themfelves on that fubject by the Royal Henry, and therefore it was confiftent and judicious in the Court of Directors to order, that a bufinefs, from which the moft important confequences might refult, fhould be conducted by as many members of the Board as could be fpared from the other departments. But the Nabob, although he has objected to the reftitution of the country, has not in any inftance refifted, and the Rajah is in poffeffion of the whole country Hanamantagoody excepted; of this the Board have written to the Nabob, and although he has claimed it as part of the Marawar country, yet when

when he confiders what has been faid upon that fubject, it is to be hoped he will judge proper that it be reftored.

This however is not of much importance; for were he to object as having been illegally taken from the Marawar, there can be no doubt but that both parties would willingly fubmit this to the decifion of the Company; to which may be added, that the Rajah has intrufted to the Company the defence of his country, and ftipulated an ample fum for that purpofe. The claims of Mr. Benfield have been brought before the Board; the Circar fhare of the crop has been adjudged to the Nabob, and the mortgages of courfe are admitted. Nothing remains then but to afcertain what the Rajah has received, and to fettle fuch terms of payment as may be juft.

I have been thus particular on thefe fubjects, as whenever the Circuit has been mentioned, the Tanjore bufinefs has been urged againft it. I know of no circumftance, in the prefent fituation of our affairs, that can juftify the longer delay in carrying the orders of the Company for the Circuit into execution; on the contrary, the rents of fome of the farms are continued for one year, and the mode tends evidently to the diftrefs of the inhabitants in thofe diftricts. The Zemindaries likewife muft be managed in the fame manner. The Zemindar will be difcouraged from improvement in the apprehenfion of increafe of tribute; and this mode, injurious as it may be, cannot be altered until the Committee obtain full and perfect information of the real value of the lands. The Circars are capable of great improvement; the foil in moft parts is rich; two very confiderable rivers, and fome fmaller ones run through them. The inhabitants of the countries under Bazalet Jung and Nizam Ally Cawn are greatly oppreffed, and with proper encouragement many might be brought to refide with us. The forefts to the weftward produce Teak and other valuable woods; they have mines which might furnifh iron for many ufeful purpofes; faltpetre is made on the borders of the Guntoor Circar; the fugar canes

grow luxuriantly in the Rajahmundry Circar; and over the whole country are weavers in great numbers.

To ſecure to the inhabitants their juſt rights from their Lords and from each other, by eſtabliſhing ſome mode of obtaining juſtice; to cultivate the deſerted and waſte lands; to reſtore a country almoſt depopulated by frequent wars and other calamities; to apply the ſuperfluous waters of the Guadivery, the Kiſtna, and other rivers, to the purpoſes of cultivation; and, by increaſing the quantity of proviſions, to improve the manufactures and encourage the workman. Theſe are objects worthy of Government, and which, if well attended to, will give confidence, wealth, and happineſs to the people, and increaſe of revenue to the Government; and theſe are the objects intruſted to the care of the Committee. For all theſe reaſons ſhould be ordered upon the Circuit, and I therefore move, that according to thoſe orders they be immediately ſent upon it.

FRANCIS JOURDAN.

The foregoing minute concluding with a motion, That the Committee of Circuit do immediately proceed upon their enquiries, Mr. Mackay deſires leave to ſecond it.

The Right Honourable the Preſident, previous to putting the queſtion, obſerves to the Board, that in his opinion there are many points of great conſequence that remain to be ſettled, in which he ſhould be glad to have the aſſiſtance of as many of the members as poſſible. That the orders of the Company are, that the Committee of Circuit ſhall not proceed until the affairs reſpecting Tanjore ſhall have been accommodated and finally adjuſted; and thoſe affairs being ſtill unſettled, he thinks by the Company's orders the Committee ought not yet to proceed, and therefore he cannot recommend the meaſure.

The

The Prefident then puts the queftion.

Mr. Mackay for the motion.

Mr. Jourdan for the motion.

Mr. Palmer for the motion, with the following minute :

As Committee of Circuit appears to be a bufinefs the Court of Directors feem to have very much at heart, from the information they expect from it, relating to points fo very effential to their affairs, and as I am likewife apprehenfive that much benefit will arife from their proceeding, I am of opinion that there fhould be no longer delay in their fetting out.

Mr. Stone againft the motion, as the Company's orders refpecting Tanjore are not, in his opinion accomplifhed, there being many material matters remaining unadjufted.

Mr. Floyer concurs entirely with Mr. Jourdan in the fentiments he has delivered in his minute, and he thinks, if the Board were longer to defer the departure of the Committee of Circuit, they would difobey the pofitive orders of the Court of Directors; for which reafon, and for thofe expreffed in Mr. Jourdan's minute, he is for the motion.

Mr. Dalrymple againft the motion, as the Prefident has declared it to be his opinion, that the Committee of Circuit cannot at this time proceed to the Northern Circars confiftent with the Company's orders, which require " Affairs refpecting Tanjore to be accommodated and finally ad-" jufted;" but he thinks the Committee may proceed to execute their truft in the Jaghire lands, where the members can attend any urgent call.

Mr. Ruſſell againſt the motion, for the reaſons given by Mr. Dalrymple.

Mr. Brooke for the motion.

Sir Robert Fletcher for the motion, becauſe he thinks the buſineſs of the Committee of the firſt importance to the Company; and he is clearly of opinion, that not any thing remains to be ſettled reſpecting Tanjore, which can by any conſtruction come within the letter or meaning of the Company's orders regarding the Committee of Circuit.

Mr. Stratton for the motion.

Preſident againſt it.

Carried for the queſtion, by a majority of ſeven to four.

Preſident. As Mr. Jourdan has paid ſo much attention to the Company's orders reſpecting the Committee of Circuit, and thinking it of conſequence that it ſhould proceed immediately, the Preſident recommends him to fill up the vacancy occaſioned by the departure of Mr. Dawſon.

Mr. Jourdan thereupon informs the Board, that ſince he has been in the ſervice he has taken his tour of duty at Manilha, Cuddalore, and Mazulipatam, and he hopes therefore the Board will be pleaſed to permit him to decline the honour intended him by the Right Honourable the Preſident.

The queſtion being then put, Whether Mr. Jourdan ſhall proceed on the Committee in the room of Mr. Dawſon? The votes of the members are taken as follow:

Mr.

Mr. Mackay againſt the motion.

Mr. Jourdan obſerves, that ſince it has been reſolved that a member may vote in his own cauſe, he ſhall in the preſent caſe give his voice againſt the queſtion.

Mr. Palmer againſt the queſtion.

Mr. Stone againſt the queſtion, as Mr. Jourdan himſelf does not wiſh to proceed on the Committee of Circuit.

Mr. Floyer. Whenever any member of the Circuit ſhall aſſign reaſons for not proceeding on that duty which may appear ſatisfactory to him, and ſo far as he deems correſpondent with his duty to the Court of Directors, he ſhall ever be ready to give his aſſent. The reaſons aſſigned by Mr. Jourdan appearing ſo to him, he declares his vote againſt the queſtion.

Mr. Dalrymple for the queſtion, becauſe he thinks it the duty of every member to proceed on ſuch ſervice as the Preſident recommends to be for the intereſt of the Company; and becauſe in his opinion the reaſons aſſigned by Mr. Jourdan are not ſufficient to excuſe him, as he thinks him a man of buſineſs, and therefore a very proper perſon to be a member of the Committee of Circuit.

Mr. Ruſſell for the queſtion.

Mr. Brooke againſt the queſtion.

Sir Robert Fletcher obſerves, that he ſhould be very glad to have Mr. Jourdan's abilities employed on the Committee of Circuit; but in juſtice to Mr. Jourdan, he cannot but excuſe him for the reaſons which he has aſſigned, and therefore he is againſt the queſtion.

M. Stratton againſt the queſtion, for the ſame reaſons.

Preſident for the queſtion.

Carried againſt the queſtion, by a majority of eight to three.

Agreed to adjourn until Monday morning.

Pigot
Geo. Stratton
Rob. Fletcher
Henry Brooke
Claud Ruſſell
Charles Floyer
Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan
Geo. Mackay.

Fort St. George, 29th July, 1776.

Revenue Department.

AT A CONSULTATION.

P R E S E N T,

Monday, the 29th July.

The Right Honourable Lord Pigot, Preſident.

George Stratton
Henry Brooke
Alexander Dalrymple
John Maxwell Stone
Francis Jourdan
General Sir Robert Fletcher
Claud Ruſſell
Charles Floyer
Archdale Palmer
George Mackay.

Minutes of laſt Conſultation read.

Mr. Mackay delivers in the following letter, which is read :

To

To the Right Honourable Lord Pigot, Prefident, &c. Council of Fort St. George.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

AS the Court of Directors have done me the honour to include my name in the Committee of Circuit for the Northern Circars, I fhould think myfelf wanting in duty, if I did not exprefs the grateful fenfe I have of this mark of their favour; at the fame time I efteem it equally my duty to inform the Board, that in my own ideas I cannot with propriety, or with hopes of being fo ufeful to the Company as I could wifh, undertake a truft of fuch importance, when I know it is impoffible for me to take an active part in the bufinefs; I fay this, becaufe my time of life at the age of near fixty, and after having fuffered much fatigue with the army in the field, I hope I fhall ftand excufed in the opinion of our Honourable Mafters, and of the Board, if I requeft to be indulged with remaining at the Prefidency, where, to the utmoft of my ftrength and abilities, I fhall always endeavour to do my duty to the Company.

Letter from Mr. Mackay, requefting to be relieved from his appointment as a Member of the Committee of Circuit.

However, after faying thus much as the refult of what I know and feel, I fhall chearfully fubmit myfelf to the determination of the Board, to difpofe of me as they may fee proper.

And I remain moft refpectfully,

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Your moft obedient

And moft humble fervant,

Fort St. George,
29th July, 1776.

GEORGE MACKAY.

Right Honourable the Prefident obferves to the Board, that he ...mfelf convinced that the Court of Directors never expected a fer...nt to undertake a fervice of fatigue, which he is perfuaded his conftitution will not enable him to perform; and underftanding Mr. Mackay to be of this opinion with refpect to himfelf, the Prefident doubts not but the Board will comply with his requeft.

Mr. Jourdan confidering what has been urged by Mr. Mackay, particularly his time of life, he thinks his fervices on the Circuit ought to be difpenfed with.

Mr. Palmer agrees in opinion with Mr. Jourdan.

Mr. Stone agrees to Mr. Mackay's requeft, for the reafons urged by the Prefident.

Mr. Floyer is of opinion that Mr. Mackay fhould be excufed, and enters the following minute on the fubject:

The reafons fet forth by Mr. Mackay, in his letter to the Board, for requefting to be excufed the duties of a Member of the Committee of Circuit, are fuch as, in my opinion, juftly merit an indulgence from this Board; I therefore think he fhould be excufed, and hope this my opinion will be deemed conformable to the declaration made in my minute of the 26th inftant, on a fimilar occafion refpecting Mr. Jourdan.

Mr. Dalrymple affents to Mr. Mackay's requeft, for the reafons affigned by the Prefident.

Mr. Ruffell affents to Mr. Mackay's requeft, for the fame reafons.

Mr. Brooke affents to Mr. Mackay's requeft, for the reafons affigned in his letter and by the Prefident.

Sir Robert Fletcher agrees to excuſe Mr. Mackay on account of his great age, but he does not admit that Mr. Mackay is to be the only judge whether or not he can perform the ſervice.

Mr. Stratton thinks Mr. Mackay ſhould be excuſed, being perſuaded, from his advanced age, that he cannot bear the fatigues attending the duty of a Member of the Committee of Circuit.

Reſolved unanimouſly, That Mr. Mackay be excuſed from proceeding on the Circuit. Reſolved accordingly.

The Board taking into conſideration in what manner the two vacancies in the Committee of Circuit ſhall be filled up, and Mr. Stone being mentioned by ſome of the Members as a proper perſon for that ſervice, the Right Honourable the Preſident expreſſes his hope that the Board will not think of Mr. Stone on this occaſion: that Mr. Stone, ever ſince his arrival in the country, has always been employed in the ſettlement; that he was ten years in office as Secretary to the Military Department, part of which time was in the Preſident's former Government, when he found Mr. Stone's ſervices very uſeful to him, both in his official and private capacity; that he has experienced the ſame ready and chearful aſſiſtance from that Gentleman during his preſent Government; and being perſuaded that his long official experience, and knowledge of the Company's affairs, will make him more uſeful at the Preſidency than if he were employed on the Circuit, he flatters himſelf the Board will diſpenſe with his going upon that ſervice.

Agreed, at the requeſt of the Preſident, and for the reaſons urged by him, that Mr. Stone be excuſed from going on the Circuit.

Mr. Dalrymple reads the following minute: Minute of Mr. Dalrymple reſpecting the Circuit.

The buſineſs for which the Committee of Circuit are appointed, is

——To

——To ascertain, with all possible exactness, the produce of the country——

The number of inhabitants—

State of manufactures—

Fortified places—

Gross amount of the revenues—

Articles from which they arise—

Mode by which they are collected—

Specific proportion usually received by the Rajah or Zemindar,

And what custom or usage has allotted to the Cultivator.

What security the native has for his property.

What Courts of Justice.

X How far similar regulations to those lately established in Bengal may be introduced with propriety in the Northern Circars.

Ascertain the strength of each Rajah or Zemindar—

Expense of his troops, &c.—

The means of defraying those expenses—

The number of regular Seapoys necessary to maintain.

The Company express an intention, that every military man in the Circars to be paid by the Company.

X And that the Committee of Circuit are afterwards to proceed to let the lands.

That

That branch of the Committee's duty which depends upon enquiry can ſcarcely be effected by a Committee, at leaſt it can be much more effectually and expeditiouſly done by a ſingle perſon, with the aſſiſtance of junior ſervants; and when the ſeveral reports are made to the Board, the Committee then proceeding conjointly to let the lands, may on the ſpot examine each report, to ſee that it is complete and exact.

By this method, each perſon of the Committee will naturally be ſtimulated to diſtinguiſh himſelf, by the manner in which he executes his truſt; and being left to execute it in the mode he thinks beſt, it will be done more completely, as well as more expeditiouſly, than if the whole Committee act in conjunction.

Mr. Floyer offers himſelf as a Member of the Committee of Circuit.

Mr. Floyer ſeeing the difficulties which the Board are under in filling up the vacancies in the Committee of Circuit, readily offers his ſervice upon this occaſion, obſerving only, that for want of local knowledge, he does not think himſelf at preſent competent to do the duties of a member of the Committee; but if the Board will permit him to remain at Maſulipatam, (where he has been appointed Chief by the Honourable Court of Directors, and of which Settlement he has not yet taken charge) until he ſhall have acquired that local knowledge ſo neceſſary in a Chief for the information of the Committee of Circuit, he will, after having obtained ſuch neceſſary information, readily join the Committee, and go with them in their enquiries.

Agreed unanimouſly, That Mr. Floyer be one of the Committee of Circuit, and that he be permitted to remain at Maſulipatam, ſo long as he ſhall find it convenient for the above purpoſes.

Sir Robert Fletcher, Mr. Jourdan, and Mr. Mackay, having given an opinion heretofore, that Chiefs ought not to be appointed members of the Committee of Circuit, but the majority determining contrary to

that opinion, they think themſelves at liberty to aſſent to Mr. Floyer's being of the Committee of Circuit.

One vacancy in the Committee remaining ſtill to be filled up, and Mr. Lathom, the Chief of Cuddalore, being propoſed as a proper perſon, it is moved that he be appointed a member. The queſtion being accordingly put by the Right Honourable the Preſident—

Mr. Mackay for the queſtion.

Mr. Jourdan for it.

Mr. Palmer for it.

Mr. Stone for it, ſuppoſing it will be agreeable to Mr. Lathom.

Mr. Floyer for it.

Mr. Dalrymple and Mr. Ruſſell for it, thinking Mr. Lathom a proper perſon, and thinking it will be agreeable to him.

Mr. Brooke againſt it, and delivers the following minute:

I give my negative to the appointing Mr. Lathom on the Committee of Circuit, becauſe I think it improper to call the Chief of Cuddalore to proceed to the Northern Circars, where he has had no opportunity of acquiring any knowledge in the buſineſs on which that Committee is ordered; whereas the Chief of Ganjam, by his reſidence there, may have acquired ſuch knowledge, as might be of material ſervice in inveſtigating the ſeveral matters recommended by the Company; and becauſe the Chiefs of Vizagapatam and Maſulipatam having been appointed members of that Committee, he may be called before them (though his juniors in the ſervice) without having a ſeat with them, which I think is an indignity, though I think this Board never meant that any ſhould be offered him.

Reſolved

Resolved accordingly, That Mr. Lathom be appointed a member of the Committee of Circuit, with permission to retain the Chiefship of Cuddalore; that he be advised of his appointment, and desired to repair to the Presidency with all convenient expedition.

Agreed to meet again on Thursday next on the business of the Committee of Circuit.

Pigot
Geo. Stratton
Rob. Fletcher.
Henry Brooke
Claud Russell
Charles Floyer
Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan
Geo. Mackay.

29. Received by Tappies general letter from Ganjam, dated the 13th instant; one from Vizagapatam, dated the 18th instant; and one from Cuddalore, dated the 26th instant.

Received by Tappies general letter from Masulipatam, dated the 25th instant.

Revenue department.

Thursday the 1st.

Fort St. George, 1st August, 1776.

AT A CONSULTATION.

PRESENT,

The Right Honourable Lord Pigot, President.

George Stratton	Sir Robert Fletcher
Henry Brooke	Claud Russell
Alexander Dalrymple	Charles Floyer
John Maxwell Stone	Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan	George Mackay.

Minutes of last Consultation read.

THE Right Honourable the President lays before the Board the following minute, which is read:

The President observing to the Board, that the occasion of their now assembling is in consequence of the resolution of the last Council, that they should this day take under consideration the departure of the Committee of Circuit; and having, upon a former day, represented that he thought the affairs of Tanjore far from being finally adjusted, he continues of opinion that the Committee ought not at this time to proceed on the Circuit.

The President maintains, that there are many very great abuses at the Presidency, in the investigation of which he thinks the extraordinary diligence and application of Mr. Dalrymple is essentially necessary to him, and these require to be fully examined into and regulated, before the members of the Council proceed upon a business which will take years to execute. Notwithstanding which, the President, convinced of the infinite importance of the Jaghire, has no objection to the

Committee of Circuit going upon an enquiry into the ſtate thereof, which is a ſervice he hopes may be performed in a few months, with the aſſiſtance of the examination Mr. Barnard has already made.

The Preſident further obſerves, that he has a volume of complaints to lay before the Committee; that he had many made to him on his late journey; and the laſt letter from the Nabob, deſiring that orders of government may be made public, which orders in fact would be underſtood to diſcourage and forbid complaints being brought to the Preſidency, ſtrengthens him the more in his opinion that thoſe complaints require their firſt attention.

The Preſident hopes that the reaſons aſſigned by Mr. Mackay do not extend to a ſervice of ſo ſhort a duration, and ſo near the Preſidency, as the Jaghire; and therefore, as the Court of Directors have been pleaſed to name him, the Preſident recommends that he be a member of the Committee on this expedition into the Jaghire, and more particularly as Mr. Floyer will depart ſoon for Maſulipatam, and Mr. Ruſſell is nominated, by the reſolution of Council of the 8th July, to be Reſident at Tanjore, on which ſervice the Preſident thinks it abſolutely neceſſary for the Company's intereſt that he ſhould forthwith proceed; and if any obſtacle is made to his departure, he, the Preſident, takes this occaſion formally to proteſt againſt all conſequences which may enſue.

The above minute having been read, the Right Honourable the Preſident deſires that the laſt letter from the Nabob, to which he has referred in the ſaid minute, may be alſo read, which is done as follows:

From the Nabob, dated 16th July, 1776, received ditto.

I UNDERSTAND that ſome people, who wiſh to make differences between me and the Company, have encouraged the Ryots in the Jaghire to make complaints againſt me. The former Governors and Council of

Madras consented that the shares of the crop due to the respective inhabitants should be settled according to the usages established by Saadut Ulla Cawn. I have ever recommended to my Aumils to attend to these usages, and allow the Choutrams and Enams granted by former Soubahs. Some of the Ryots, partly out of their own malicious disposition, and partly instigated and encouraged by others, are not content with the shares to which they have a right, by the usages established in Saadut Ulla Cawn's time, but insist upon more than their due: as their demands are not founded upon justice, and only tend to throw confusion into the mode of collecting the rents, upon which every thing depends, I therefore beg leave to recommend to you, that you will order notice to be given by public advertisements to all the Ryots and inhabitants of the Company's Jaghire, that the Cultivators shall receive the shares due to them, as established in Saadut Ulla Cawn's time, and that free possession of all Choutrams and Enams granted by former Soubahs shall be allowed. That if any Ryot shall demand more than is due to him by the above-mentioned usages, he shall not receive encouragement or protection from the English. This will put a stop to all irregularities in the Government and cultivation of the lands, which will tend to the Company's advantage.

What can I say more?

He then moves, that the Committee of Circuit shall first proceed to the investigation of the Jaghire; and the question being put—

Mr. Mackay against the question, as he is clearly of opinion the Court of Directors, in their orders by the Grenville, mean that the Northern Circars shall be investigated by the Committee of Circuit before the Jaghire.

Mr. Jourdan against the question, for the reasons contained in the following minute:

As

As the abuſes, of which the Right Honourable the Preſident ſpeaks, are not ſpecified, I can only ſay, that in my opinion the Preſident ought to lay them before the Board; and that the members who will remain here after the Gentlemen appointed of the Circuit may ſet out, will be competent to the inveſtigation of any abuſes that may exiſt. The material parts of the Tanjore buſineſs I think are concluded. The Nabob deſires that we order notice to be given, that the Ryots and inhabitants ſhall receive the ſhares eſtabliſhed in Saadut Ulla Cawn's time.—That all Choutrams and Enams granted by former Soubahs ſhall be allowed, and that if any Ryot ſhall demand more than is due to him, he ſhall not receive encouragement and protection from the Engliſh; all which, I think, may be done in terms that will not preclude the injured from complaining. The members of the Committee of Revenue may, in the abſence of the Committee of Circuit, receive and examine the accounts of the Trepaſſore, &c. diſtricts collected by Mr. Barnard; and I therefore am againſt the queſtion.

FRANCIS JOURDAN.

Mr. Palmer againſt the queſtion, as he thinks the ſpirit of the Company's orders is, that the Northern Circars ſhall be firſt inveſtigated by the Committee of Circuit.

Mr. Stone obſerves, that he has already given his opinion, that the departure of the Committee of Circuit ſhould be delayed for ſome time, as it appeared to him there were many important points reſpecting Tanjore remaining to be adjuſted; but it having been determined by the Board that the Committee ſhall proceed immediately, he thinks they ſhould make the Jaghire the firſt object of their enquiry, as they may on any emergency be called to the Preſidency at a ſhort notice; he is therefore for the queſtion.

Mr.

Mr. Floyer obferves, that he has confidered with due attention the fubject of the Right Honourable the Prefident's Minute, and confeffes he does not fee reafons fufficient to induce him to deviate from what he thinks the pofitive orders of the Court of Directors—that the Committee of Circuit fhould firft proceed to the Circars, where he is of opinion the duties of the Committee are firft and moft effentially required; he is therefore againft the queftion, for the above and other reafons, which he fhall fully affign in a minute hereafter.

Mr. Dalrymple for the queftion, and gives his reafons in the following minute:

The Nabob having not given in any application for continuing to rent the Trepaffore, &c. diftricts, and the term for his laft agreement being now expired, I think the Jaghire is at prefent virtually under the charge of the Committee of Circuit; and although I do not mean to fay, that in cafe the Nabob fhould now make application for a continuation of this farm for the enfuing year, that his Highnefs's application fhould be rejected, becaufe not given in before this time; yet, if a further agreement is made with him, the Company's orders are, "That this agreement with the Nabob fhall be made for *one* year only; and that it muft be an exprefs condition in fuch agreement, that the Committee of Circuit fhall be at full liberty to explore the country, and to afcertain the real produce and revenues thereof, in the manner defcribed in their inftructions refpecting the Northern Circars;" which condition would be rendered void if the Committee were firft to be ordered to the Northern Circars, as it is impoffible for them to execute their duty there in *one* year. And I am convinced, not only from what I have heard, but from what I have feen, that the Jaghire is capable of very great improvement, and that the inhabitants fuffer great oppreffion.

Mr. Ruffell for the queftion, and gives his reafons in the following minute:

I am for the queſtion for the reaſons aſſigned by the Preſident, and becauſe I think the Jaghire is of the firſt importance to the Company, on account of it's vicinity to the preſidency as well as revenue, and becauſe until the inveſtigation is made, the lands cannot be let on long leaſes, which is abſolutely neceſſary, to relieve them from the decayed ſtate which they are ſaid to have fallen into under the Nabob's management on leaſes from year to year.

Mr. Brooke obſerves, that he is unhappy in differing from the Preſident in the preſent caſe, but he thinks the inveſtigation of the Circars an object of much more importance than the Jaghire, as well as that the Company's orders have ſo particularly and ſtrongly recommended it. For theſe reaſons, and thoſe aſſigned by Mr. Jourdan, he is againſt the queſtion.

Sir Robert Fletcher ſubſcribes to the opinion given by Mr. Jourdan, and is therefore againſt the queſtion.

Mr. Stratton againſt the queſtion, being clearly of opinion, that from the ſpirit of the Company's orders, the Committee of Circuit ſhould firſt proceed to inveſtigate the northern Circars, which appear to him to be the Company's principal object in the appointment of this Committee.

Preſident for the queſtion, obſerving that he is much concerned the arguments made uſe of in his minute have not had that weight with the Board which he expected, and which he thinks they deſerve. In reply to Mr. Jourdan's minute, he remarks, that undoubtedly he ought to lay before the Board the abuſes mentioned, and the ſooner he does ſo, the more he is perſuaded it will be acceptable to his employers; that he wiſhed to do this at a time when he could have Mr. Dalrymple's aſſiſtance; that he is perſuaded Mr. Jourdan is as well acquainted with the circumſtances and ſituation of this ſettlement as any man, but if he ſhould be ſo un-

fortunate in all his recommendations as he has been of late, it is evident he will receive very little ſupport from his Council after the departure of the Committee of Circuit.

Carried againſt the queſtion by a majority of ſeven to four.

Mr. Brooke delivers in the following motion in writing, which is now read.

It having been determined that the Committee of Circuit ſhall immediately proceed on that ſervice, and the Court of Directors appearing deſirous of having the affairs of the Chicacole Circar firſt ſettled, I move that Meſſrs. Ruſſell and Dalrymple do ſet out by the 15th of this month to the Chicacole Circar, to be there joined by Mr. Johnſon, in order to commence upon this buſineſs; that Mr. Lathom do repair thither as ſoon as poſſible, and that Mr. Floyer ſhall join them when he has acquired that knowledge which is ſo neceſſary for him as Chief of Maſulipatam.

The above motion being read, Mr. Floyer deſires leave to ſecond it.

It being late in the day, and the Right Honourable the Preſident informing the Board that he has a great deal to ſay to them on the ſubject of Mr. Brooke's motion, it is agreeed to adjourn till to-morrow morning at 11 o'clock.

Pigot
George Stratton
Robᵗ. Fletcher
Henry Brooke
Claud Ruſſell
Charles Floyer
Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan
George Mackay.

Fort

Fort St. George, 2d August, 1776.

AT A CONSULTATION.

Revenue department.

PRESENT,

Friday the 2d.

The Right Honourable Lord Pigot, President,

George Stratton	Henry Brooke
Charles Floyer	John Maxwell Stone
Archdale Palmer	Francis Jourdan

George Mackay.

Sir Robert Fletcher indisposed. Mr. Russell and Mr. Dalrymple absent.

Minutes of last Consultation read.

THE Right Honourable the President acquaints the Board, that he last night directed the Secretary to intimate to the Gentlemen of the Council that it would require more time to prepare what he had to lay before them on the subject of Mr. Brooke's motion of yesterday, and that he requested their attendance this morning at 11 o'clock, in order to take under consideration a letter from Ingeram concerning the investment and other current business lying on the table; he then apologizes to Mr. Brooke for not being prepared to give an opinion on his motion, and informs him, that he shall lay before the Board what he has to offer on the subject of it as soon as possible.

The following letters from Mr. Russell and Dalrymple are now read:

To the Right Honourable Lord Pigot, President and Governor, &c. Council of Fort St. George.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

AS I consider the motion yesterday given in by Mr. Brooke, and seconded by Nr. Floyer, to convey a charge of backwardness in my duty

to the Company, by fixing a particular day for my departure on the Committee of Circuit, I think it incumbent on me, before I can attend your councils, to requeſt you will call upon thoſe Gentlemen to explain themſelves, and point out in what inſtance I have either been backward or negligent. On this occaſion I muſt take leave to obſerve, that Mr. Dalrymple nor myſelf have not ſince our arrival encumbered ourſelves with the charge of any employ of emolument, that we might be the readier for ſetting out on the Circuit when the Tanjore buſineſs ſhould be finally adjuſted.

The Board, when fuller than at preſent, did me the honour of appointing me Reſident at Tanjore to ſettle the buſineſs and quiet the alarms in the Rajah's mind, before my ſervices on the Circuit ſhould be called upon; and I ſhould hope they would not now fruſtrate that appointment, as I cannot but think it a highly neceſſary one, it being well known that the Nabob's Sons took great pains, and made large offers to Mr. Dawſon to prevent the appointment taking place, and even now are indefatigable in their nocturnal viſits.

I have the honour to be, very reſpectfully,

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Fort St. George, Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

2d. Auguſt, 1776. CLAUD RUSSELL.

To the Right Honourable Lord Pigot, Preſident and Governor, &c. Council of Fort St. George.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

THE motion made yeſterday by Mr. Brooke, and ſeconded by Mr. Floyer, *conveying an imputation that Mr. Ruſſell and I have declined our duty to the Company,* I muſt conſider as a charge, and am under the neceſſity, before I attend Council, to call upon Mr. Brooke and Mr. Floyer to explain in what inſtance I have ever been backward in performing

my

my duty, the more particularly, as I have never expreſſed even a wiſh to be excuſed going on the Committee of Circuit; on the contrary did always expreſs my readineſs to proceed, and to qualify myſelf for the execution of this duty, have with great pains abſtracted the proceedings of the Board of Revenue, to know what had been done antecedent to our arrival; and before I was ſent to Tanjore had drawn out a model for abridging Mr. Barnard's accounts, which model was approved of by the Board, and ordered to be carried into execution under the direction of the Accountant; and ſince my return, I have almoſt compleated, from the Company's records, an abſtract of all circumſtances I can find concerning the Jaghire; it is true, conſidering the Jaghire to be the matter of the moſt real importance to the Company, I have not entered into any inveſtigation of the Northern Circars, concerning which I have no local knowledge, and am therefore as great an ignoramus as Mr. Floyer declared himſelf to be, and for this reaſon his preſent attendance with the Committee was excuſed. If the Committee are to proceed firſt to the Northern Circars, the pains I have taken concerning the Jaghire is labour loſt and an examination of the Company's records, to acquire the neceſſary knowledge concerning the Northern Circars, and to have the neceſſary extracts made, will take more time than the motion allots for our departure.

So indecent a motion, as to affix any day for the departure of members of the Board, cannot, I preſume, ever be put to the vote by the Preſident, whoſe duty I conceive obliges him to pay the reſpect due to the members of his Council; ſince if there was any ground for ſuch an order, the perſon who requires to be put under ſuch command, muſt be unmeriting that confidence indiſpenſably neceſſary to be lodged in the members of the Committee of Circuit.

But circumſtanced as I am, the motion is peculiarly injurious. Upon the eve of the Grenville's diſpatch, when ſuch important matters,

wherein I have been fo much a party concerned, are to be referred to the Company, and the Commander in Chief having repeatedly intimated to the Board, his intention to call upon them to enter into the confideration of my conduct, which I am confcious will ftand the teft, as well as his, or any members of the Board; it is in a manner preventing me making my defence to my Honourable Mafters, and precluding me from that juftice which I have a perfect confidence of ever receiving from them, when all circumftances are fairly reprefented.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Your moft obedient, humble fervant,

Fort St. George,
2d Auguft, 1776.

ALEXR. DALRYMPLE.

The above letters being read, Mr. Floyer addreffes himfelf to the Board as follows:

Mr. Floyer—The letters which have now been read from Meffieurs Ruffell and Dalrymple, fhould imply, by my feconding the motion of Mr. Brooke, read yefterday at the Board, an indirect charge or accufation of neglect of duty on their parts. I have in a future confultation very fully expreffed my wifhes, that a time not exceeding the departure of the Grenville, fhould be fixed for the fetting out of the Committee of Circuit, and did then affign as a reafon for fuch wifh, that it was not fufficient the Court of Directors fhould know that we had refolved to enforce their orders relative to the Committee of Circuit, but that they fhould by the fame conveyance have the additional fatisfaction, of knowing they were actually fet out on that duty. When I uttered thefe my fentiments, I did expect the Grenville would have been difpatched from hence to Europe, within a month at fartheft.

fartheſt. As we have been told by the Gentlemen of Bombay, that the Grenville would be diſpatched in a few days after the Revenge, which arrived here nine days ago, and as we have nothing to detain her here to my recollection after her arrival, but the ſending by her our public diſpatches to the Honourable the Court of Directors, and perhaps a few bales of our inveſtment; theſe together with the lateneſs of the ſeaſon, makes me think I am rather beyond, than within the time ſhe can with propriety be kept here.

I muſt add to the above reaſons, that in my opinion the buſineſs of the Circuit has been already too long delayed, and that if I did not uſe my endeavours, as a member of this adminiſtration, to expedite the departure of the Committee, I ſhould deſervedly incur the ſevereſt cenſure my Honourable Maſters could impoſe upon me. Theſe are the reaſons that induced me to ſecond Mr. Brooke's motions, and no other; if in that act I had intended to inſinuate any thing to the prejudice of thoſe two gentlemen, I ſhould have taken the liberty to have mentioned it at the Board, when they were preſent. I am extremely ſorry to have given this trouble to the Board, and ſhall only beg leave to make one obſervation upon theſe words in Mr. Dalrymple's letter, "*ſo indecent a motion*," (alluding to that made by Mr. Brooke) the word *indecent* is in my opinion by no means proper to be made uſe of by any member upon any occaſion, which leads to become a public act of the Board.

CHARLES FLOYER.

Mr. Brooke.—When I gave in my motion yeſterday at the Board, it was upon a general idea, that the Company's poſitive commands regarding the Circuit had been already too long delayed, and not from any intention to convey to this Board any charge of neglect againſt Mr. Ruſſell or Mr. Dalrymple. I have upon all occaſions during the debates touching the Circuit given it as my opinion, that the Company's intentions regarding the buſineſs of Tanjore were fully

fully accomplifhed, when the Rajah was put in poffeffion of his country, and though the Committee of Circuit fhould have fet out immediately after that period.

Mr. Stratton propofed to move, more than two months ago, that the Committee fhould then proceed, but poftponed it on the Prefident's requefting it might be deferred until the arrival of the Greenwich. Upon the minute given in by Mr. Jourdan the 26th ultimo, it was determined that the Committe of Circuit fhould proceed immediately. The exception made to that was, that the word *immediately* was indefinite. I therefore thought it proper to mention a precife time for their departure, that no further debates might arife. I am concerned upon this occafion, that thofe gentlemen fhould mifunderftand my meaning, as nothing more was intended than to carry the Company's orders into execution, which appears to me to have been already too long delayed.

HENRY BROOKE.

The Right Honourable the Prefident remarks upon that part of Mr. Brooke's minute, which mentions his having requefted Mr. Stratton to defer his motion until the arrival of the Greenwich; that it never could but have been his intention, that Mr. Stratton fhould poftpone that motion, until he (the Prefident) fhould think the proper time was arrived for the departure of the Committee, when it would be unneceffary for Mr. Stratton to make the motion at all.

The Prefident cannot avoid upon this occafion expreffing his concern, that two members of the Council, of whom he has the higheft opinion, whom he has known from very young men, and whofe ability and integrity are equal to thofe of any fervant of the Company he has ever known, fhould be placed in a fituation which they themfelves think improper and difagreeable. The Prefident feels the more, as he fhould think it all growing from his conduct at Tanjore, and from his wifh to keep

keep the Rajah of Tanjore in a situation that shall henceforward free him from all unjust sufferings from the Nabob, did not the Gentlemen of the Majority assure him to the contrary. The President will allow great merit in the Majority, in adhering strictly to what they conceive to be the commands of the Court of Directors; but at the same time he is sorry to observe, that ever since that unfortunate journey, he has not been able to satisfy the Majority of the Council, that any political question he had to recommend was for the benefit of the Company.

Thus situated, the President thinks it his indispensable duty to recommend to the Board to call up from Gangam and Vizagapatam Messieurs Smith and Johnson, that he may be aided and assisted with their advice upon this emergent occasion. He therefore moves the Board, that they will come to that resolution, and further informs them he shall afterwards propose,

"That the Commander of the Company's ship Revenge be directed to proceed to the northward, to bring up Messieurs Smith and Johnson.

"That if upon enquiry it shall appear, that the nocturnal visits mentioned by Mr. Russell in his letter, be made by the Nabob's Sons to the members of this Council, such members be suspended from the Company's service until their pleasure be known."

Mr. Floyer then requests that the summons sent last night to the Council may be read, which is accordingly done as follows:

Gentlemen of Council,

THE Right Honourable the President has directed me to acquaint you, that he finds it will require more time to prepare what he has to lay before the Board on the subject of Mr. Brooke's motion; that he desires however the Council will attend at the Fort to-morrow morning,

at eleven o'clock, to take under confideration Mr Davidfon's letter concerning the Ingeram inveftment and other current bufinefs.

I am, very refpectfully,

Gentlemen,

Your moft obedient

humble fervant,

Thurfday evening,
9 o'clock.

CHA^S OAKELEY, Secretary.

Mr. Floyer then reads the following minute, fubfcribed to by himfelf, Mr. Stratton, Sir Robert Fletcher, Meffieurs Brooke, Palmer, Jourdan, and Mackay.

After the many inftances which the Majority of the Board have given of their attention to the Prefident, it was with much concern and aftonifhment that we read the paper laft night fent round to the Council.

A motion for the fetting out of the Committe for the Circars was offered to be made by Mr. Stratton more than two months ago. Mr. Ruffell then objected to fuch a motion being made, on account of the land winds; and the Prefident wifhing that it might be poftponed until the arrival of the Greenwich, the Board yielded thereto. Near two months have elapfed fince the arrival of the Greenwich, and in the intermediate time it has been refolved by the Governor's cafting vote, that one of the members, appointed and ordered by our mafters, on the Committee of Circuit, fhall be appointed Refident at Tanjore; but with an intimation from the Prefident, during the debate, that the appointment to Tanjore fhould not interfere in that member's going on the circuit.

Some days ago the vacancies in the Committee of Circuit were filled up, and it was refolved that the Committee fhould proceed immediate-

ly; and as ſome gentlemen obſerved that the word *immediately* was indefinite, Mr. Brook moved yeſterday to fix their departure to a day. In this debate the Preſident deſired to have one day's delay, and to adjourn until this morning at ten o'clock. This was complied with, and it was made an act of the Board, that we ſhould meet at that hour to proceed upon Mr. Brooke's motion. The Preſident, notwithſtanding that adjournment, having taken upon himſelf to order the Secretary to ſend round a paper to ſupercede that act, by ſummoning them at a different time to go upon the buſineſs of the Ingeram inveſtment, (which buſineſs appears as immediately connected with that of the enquiry intothe conduct of Mr. Sadller, that we think no new ſyſtem can with propriety be adopted until that be finiſhed.) We muſt declare this act of the Preſident to be unconſtitutional, and that it appears to us intended to delay the execution of the poſitive orders of the Company touching the Circuit.

In ſupport therefore of thoſe orders, and of the dignity and honour of this government, we think ourſelves obliged to object to the going upon any freſh buſineſs, until the time of the departure, and place of the enquiry of the Committee of Circuit be ſettled, unleſs ſuch buſineſs ſhall be deemed of more, or of equal importance to that which is now before the Board.

Geo. Stratton
Rob. Fletcher
Henry Brooke
Charles Floyer
Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan.

The motions before entered by the Right Honourable the Preſident, are again read at his deſire.

Mr.

Mr. Jourdan.—As the paſſage alluded to by the Right Honourable the Preſident, in the letter from Mr. Ruſſell, is too general for me to form any judgment upon, I think the latter ſhould be called upon to explain himſelf; and as I do not ſee the ſituation of the Company's affairs in the manner the Right Honourable the Preſident does, I am of opinion that the motion delivered by Mr. Brooke to the Board, in point of order and regularity, as well as importance, ought to be firſt taken into conſideration; and I therefore move that the Preſident's motions be not now put.

Mr. Mackay.—I think the motions of the Preſident very irregular, as another motion made by Mr. Brooke is now before the Board, and ought to be firſt diſpoſed of. I am therefore of opinion that the Preſident's motions be not now put.

Mr. Palmer.—I conceive that as there is a motion now before the Board, antecedent to the Preſident's queſtions, and for the determination of which the Board are now aſſembled, I am of opinion that the determination of the Preſident's motions be ſubſequent to that of the motion now before the Board.

Mr. Stone.—I think the Preſident's motions ſhould be now put.

Mr. Floyer.—I am of opinion that the Preſident's motions ought not to be now put, for the reaſons given by Mr. Jourdan, but can have no objection to their being put in due order and place.

Mr. Brooke.—I ſhall always pay the greateſt attention to every thing that is moved by the Preſident; but as the motion of yeſterday is prior to thoſe made to-day by him, and for the conſideration of which the Board agreed to meet this day, I am of opinion that the motion made yeſterday, in point of order and propriety, ſhould be firſt put, and am therefore for the queſtion.

Mr.

Mr. Stratton.—I am for the queſtion for the reaſons aſſigned by Mr. Jourdan.

Preſident.—Againſt the queſtion.

Carried by a majority of ſix to two, that the Right Honourable the Preſident's motions be not now put.

Meſſieurs Brooke and Floyer having declared in their minutes, relative to the motion made by the former, and ſeconded by the latter, at yeſterday's Conſultation, that they never intended to convey any idea of neglect of duty in Mr. Ruſſell or Mr. Dalrymple, by fixing a time for their departure,

Reſolved, That they be furniſhed with a copy of the minutes, and that the Secretary deſire their attendance next Council.

Agreed, That Mr. Brooke's motion be taken into conſideration on Monday next.

Pigot.
Geo. Stratton.
Henry Brooke
Charles Floyer
Archdale Palmer.

Fort St. George, 5th of August, 1776.

Revenue department.

Monday, the 25th.

AT A CONSULTATION.

PRESENT,

The Right Honourable Lord Pigot, Prefident,

George Stratton	Sir Robert Fletcher
Henry Brooke	Claud Ruffell
Alexander Dalrymple	Charles Floyer
John Maxwell Stone	Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan	George Mackay.

Minutes of laft Confultation read.

THE Right Honourable the Prefident obferves to the Board, that the Nabob's agreement for renting the Jaghire being expired, and the Honourable Company's inveftment at Ingeram, as well as at the Prefidency, being at a ftand, he recommends to the Board to take thofe important matters into confideration, before they proceed upon other bufinefs.

Refolved, That a letter be written to the Nabob to remind him, that the term for which the Trepaffore, &c. diftricts were let to him, expired on the 31ft ultimo, and to requeft his anfwer as foon as poffible to the letter which was addreffed to him on that fubject the 23d ultimo.

With refpect to the other part of the Prefident's recommendation, relative to the bufinefs of the inveftment, the feveral members give their opinion as follow:

Mr. Mackay.—I am of opinion, that Mr. Brooke's motion fhould be taken into confideration before the bufinefs of the Ingeram inveftment.

GEO. MACKAY.

Mr.

Mr. Jourdan.—I am of opinion, for the reafons I gave in laft Confultation, that Mr. Brooke's motion fhould be firft confidered.

FRANCIS JOURDAN.

Mr. Palmer.—I am of the fame opinion.

Mr. Stone.—As a very confiderable and valuable part of the Company's inveftment has been provided under Ingeram, any ftop or failure therein muft be attended with not only immediate but future bad confequences to the Company; I am therefore of opinion, that the Board cannot too foon proceed to take Mr. Davidfon's letter on that fubject into confideration.

Mr. Floyer.—I think the orders of the Court of Directors are too pofitive with refpect to the Committee of Circuit to admit of longer delay; and as the recommendation now before us is not, in my opinion, of equal importance to the fubject contained in Mr. Brooke's motion, I am of opinion, that the faid motion of Mr. Brooke fhould firft be confidered.

Mr. Dalrymple.—I am of opinion, that nothing is of more effential confequence to the Company than their inveftments. As I underftand the Ingeram inveftment is at a ftop, I think this requires the firft attention of the Board; and it is neceffary for me to obferve, that I called in vain for Mr. Davidfon's letter to be read. I alfo underftand, from the Export Warehoufe-keeper's declaration at the Board, a few days ago, that the weavers of the fouthern Pyokets had given to him a written declaration, that they could not conform to the refolutions of the Board, and that this branch of the inveftment is alfo at a ftand.

Mr. Ruffell.—I am of opinion, that the Ingeram inveftment fhould be firft taken into confideration for the reafons given by Mr. Stone.

Mr.

Mr. Brooke.—I am of opinion, that the motion I have delivered in ſhould be firſt conſidered, as well from the importance of the ſubject, as becauſe what I have therein propoſed is in obedience of the Company's orders.

Sir Robert Fletcher.—I am of the ſame opinion with Mr. Floyer.

Mr. Stratton.—I am of opinion, Mr. Brooke's motion ſhould be firſt conſidered, for the reaſons given by Mr. Jourdan.

Preſident.—I am of opinion, the buſineſs of the inveſtment ſhould be firſt conſidered.

Agreed by a majority of ſeven to four, that the motion delivered in by Mr. Brooke be firſt taken into conſideration.

The Right Honourable the Preſident then delivers in the following minute:

The Preſident obſerves to the Board, that the motion before them having been objected to by two members of the Board, as reflecting upon them, he cannot think the Gentlemen from whom it came can ſtill require ſuch a motion to be put; the more particularly, as it is impoſſible for Meſſieurs Ruſſell and Dalrymple, who have no local knowledge in the Circars, to prepare themſelves in ſo ſhort a time for ſuch a ſervice. He muſt further obſerve, that Mr. Brooke, the Gentleman from whom this motion comes, ſo lately as the 29th of laſt month, gave his negative to Mr. Lathom's appointment, that Gentleman having "Had "no opportunity of acquiring any knowledge in the buſineſs on which "the Committee is ordered." The Preſident conſidering alſo, that the Board have given Mr. Floyer permiſſion to remain at Maſulipatam, till he has had time to make himſelf ſomewhat acquainted with the Circars, he,

he, the Prefident, cannot conceive the motion propofed by Mr. Brooke, and feconded by Mr. Floyer, can be fupported on any ground, fince Mr. Ruffell and Mr. Dalrymple are at prefent as little acquainted with the Circars as Mr. Lathom or Mr. Floyer.

The Prefident further obferves, that if the Committee of Revenue can be confidered in any degree fimilar to the Committee of Circuit, Mr. Jourdan, who is one of that Committee, and has been in the Circars, would have been the propereft perfon to have filled up the vacancy in the Committee of Circuit; and the majority of Council having excufed him merely for his private convenience, cannot, with any decency, deny fomething to the convenience of other members, who are acknowledged to be in no meafure backward in their duty.

The Court of Directors having been pleafed to commit the infpection of the Jaghire to the Committee of Circuit, the Prefident thinks that charge cannot be transferred to the Committee of Revenue, as recommended by Mr. Jourdan. The Prefident is very well convinced of the neceffity of enquiring into the many abufes and oppreffions, and at the fame time he is not ignorant, that it would be very pleafing to the Nabob to have that enquiry poftponed, or made by his friends.

The Prefident makes no reply to the minute delivered in by Mr. Stratton, Sir Robert Fletcher, Meffieurs Brooke, Floyer, Palmer, Jourdan and Mackay, leaving the confideration of that to the Court of Directors; but he cannot avoid taking notice, that thofe feven members generally go together upon every queftion and compofe the majority; minutes are prepared and agreed to, motions are framed and determined on, even before the purport of them is made known to him, the Prefident, or the other members of the Council at large. The Prefident is fully perfuaded, that nothing he can urge will put a ftop to thefe irregular proceedings, but neverthelefs thinks it a duty incumbent on him,

thus publickly to take notice of them, that the Court of Directors may see, that their President, instead of meeting with support from the Council, appointed to aid and assist him, finds, when they are assembled, it is only to give sanction to measures hatched and matured by them in private, and to put a negative upon every measure proposed by him, the President.

The President considering his own responsibility, as well as that of his office, confirmed by the Company's late dismission of his predecessor for the measures of the Council, thinks he is warranted, by the necessity of circumstances, to *require*, "That Mr. Russell shall forthwith proceed to Tanjore to quiet the mind of the Rajah," which is the more proper, as the majority of the Council have been pleased to refuse the Rajah so small a request, as to *continue Lieutenant-Colonel Harper* in the command of Tanjore, and to declare that he, the President, will not assent to Colonel Stuart's proceeding to Tanjore till Mr. Russell goes thither.

The above minute being read, Mr. Dalrymple and Mr. Russell enter the following minutes:

Mr. Dalrymple's minute.

I shall ever be ready, at a minute's warning, to go where the exigency of the service demands, but I cannot be induced to think an undertaking, which will take *some years* to execute, can require a *day*, or even a *month* to be affixed for its commencement. I trust, therefore, I shall stand excused to our Honourable Masters in saying, that I cannot be ready by the day proposed in Mr. Brooke's motion, to proceed on the Circuit of the Northern Circars, in which my reputation is so much at stake, and on which I must be so long absent; and being convinced my Honourable Masters will not require more of me, as I am acquitted by the Board of every suspicion of backwardness to execute that, or any other duty, I shall, without apprehension, stand to the decision of our Honourable Masters;

Masters; and, although I cannot name a day when I shall be ready, nobody will suspect me of idling away my time.

I am in the same predicament with Mr. Dalrymple, and having besides dispatched part of my baggage to Tanjore, in expectation of proceeding thither in consequence of my appointment as Resident, I must beg leave to apprize the Board, that it will be impossible for me to set out on the Circuit on the day fixed in the motion. Mr. Russell's minute.

Mr. Mackay then moves an amendment to the motion delivered in by Mr. Brooke the 1st instant, by fixing the date of the Committee's departure to the 31st, instead of the 15th of this month.

Mr. Russell thereupon desires it may be minuted, that he cannot possibly get ready to proceed before the 1st of October; and the President expresses his hope, that the Board will see the necessity, where the Company's affairs do not require the immediate departure of the Committee, that a member should make it convenient to his own affairs.

The question on the amendment proposed in Mr. Brooke's motion is then put.

Mr. Mackay.—I am for the amendment.

Mr. Jourdan for the amendment.

Mr. Palmer for the amendment.

Mr. Stone.—I am against the amendment; and I am very sorry to see any day fixt for the departure of a member of this Board, as I have not the least reason to suspect that he will make any unnecessary delay, knowing the desire of the Board that he should proceed with all expedition.

Mr.

Mr. Floyer.—I am for the amendment, and have no other reaſon for giving this as my opinion, than that I deem the time of departure therein mentioned more conſiſtent with the orders of the Court of Directors.

Mr. Dalrymple.—I am againſt the amendment propoſed by Mr. Mackay, becauſe I think the Board ought to conform to Mr. Ruſſell's convenience as far as to allow him till the 1ſt of October; and I doubt not, before that period, the other members may be enabled to give our Honourable Maſters a general idea of the ſtate of the Jaghire from this our own knowledge and obſervation.

Mr. Ruſſell againſt the amendment.

Mr. Brooke for the amendment.

Sir Robert Fletcher for the amendment.

Mr. Stratton for the amendment.

Preſident againſt the amendment, as he is of opinion the Committee ſhould not proceed at all *until he thinks proper*.

Carried for the amendment by a majority of 7 to 4.

Mr. Brooke's motion is then read with the propoſed amendment, and the queſtion being put thereupon,

Mr. Mackay for the queſtion.

Mr. Jourdan for the queſtion.

Mr. Palmer for the queſtion.

Mr. Stone againſt the queſtion.

Mr. Floyer for the queſtion.

Mr. Dalrymple againſt the queſtion.

Mr.

Mr. Ruſſell againſt the queſtion.

Mr. Brooke for the queſtion.

Sir Robert Fletcher for the queſtion.

Mr. Stratton for the queſtion.

Preſident againſt the queſtion.

Carried for the queſtion by a majority of 7 to 4.

Reſolved, That the members of the Committee preſent be furniſhed as ſoon as poſſible with a copy of the orders of the Company touching the Circuit for their guidance.

The Right Honourable the Preſident's motions entered in laſt conſultation are then read as follows:

1. "That the Board will come to the reſolution of calling up Meſſieurs Smith and Johnſon to take their ſeats at the Board."

2. "That the Commander of the Company's ſhip Revenge be directed to proceed to the northward to bring up Meſſieurs Smith and Johnſon."

3. "That if upon enquiry it ſhall appear that the *nocturnal viſits*, mentioned by Mr. Ruſſell in his letter to be made by the Nabob's Sons, be to the members of this Council, ſuch members be ſuſpended from the Company's ſervice until their pleaſure be known."

The queſtion upon the firſt motion being put,

Mr. Mackay. I am againſt the queſtion, becauſe I think the ſending for the Chiefs of Ganjam and Vizagapatam will be prejudicial to the

the Company's affairs, particularly as Mr. Johnſon is a member of the Committee of Circuit.

GEO. MACKAY.

Mr. Jourdan againſt the queſtion.

Mr. Palmer againſt the queſtion.

Mr. Stone for the queſtion.

Mr. Floyer.—When the Honourable Court of Directors granted a new commiſſion of government to the Right Honourable Lord Pigot and the other members of their Council at this Preſidency, as is uſual upon their confirmation or nomination of a new Preſident and Governor, they thought proper to include therein every member who they were adviſed had ſucceeded to the ſeats vacated by ſome of the gentlemen who had returned to Europe; ſo that by the introduction of Mr. Ruſſell, Mr. Dalrymple, and myſelf into Council upon this eſtabliſhment, the number of the Council at that time amounted to 19 members (of which number Mr. Hay, Mr. Stracey, and Mr. Cotsford were in Europe) including the Preſident and the Commander in Chief; but they were pleaſed particularly to direct, that no future vacancies in the Council ſhould be filled up until it was reduced to the number of twelve. Four of this number are conſtant reſident Chiefs at the ſubordinate factories. Hence it is evident to me, that the number of the Board ultimately intended to govern the Company's affairs on this Coaſt are eight, including the Commander in Chief, whoſe reſidence at Fort St. George is precarious and uncertain.

We have till very lately been twelve members of the Board, and are now actually eleven in number; notwithſtanding which the Preſident moves that Mr. Smith and Mr. Johnſon be called up from the northern ſettlements to take their ſeats at the Board.

To

To the motion I object for the following reasons:

1st, Because the Board is composed of more members than our Masters intended it should hereafter be composed of for the government of their affairs.

2dly, Because I think the delay which must necessarily be occasioned by the coming up of those Chiefs from settlements so very distant from the Presidency will be attended with prejudice to the affairs of the Company, and be inconsistent with their positive commands relative to the Committee of Circuit.

3dly, Because Mr. Johnson is one of the members of the Committee of Circuit nominated by the Honourable Court of Directors.

And 4thly, Because the Board have this day come to the resolution, that a part of the Committee shall set out on the 31st instant for the Circar of Chicacole, which is under the direction of Mr. Johnson and his Council at Vizagapatam.

CHARLES FLOYER.

Mr. Dalrymple.—The President thinking the present situation of affairs requires the attendance of a full Board, I give my assent to his motion, because it seems proper for our Honourable Masters to know if the actual majority of the whole Board do, or do not concur in opinion with the President on the political concerns of the Company on this Coast.

Mr. Russell for the question, for the reasons urged by Mr. Dalrymple.

Mr. Brooke. I am against the question, because I think Mr. Smith and Mr. Johnson are better employed for the interest of our Masters in their

their respective stations than they would be at the Presidency, where there are already members sufficient.

Sir Robert Fletcher.—I should be glad to see Messieurs Smith and Johnson here at this time; but I am obliged to be against the motion, because I think it is contrary to the resolution of the Board respecting the Committee of Circuit; contrary to the Company's orders respecting the established numbers of the Council at the Presidency; and contrary to the express words of the Commission of Government, as it respects the Chiefs of Subordinates.

Mr. Stratton against the question, for the reasons urged by Mr. Floyer.

President for the question.

The question being carried against the first motion by a majority of 7 to 4, it becomes unnecessary to put any question upon the second motion.

The third motion being read and the question put upon it;

Mr. Mackay.—I am against the question, because I think it is contrary to every principle of justice, as well as to the established rules of the service, that we should make an act of Government to punish any servants of the Company, before an accusation is brought against them, or even before it is known that they have committed any offence.

If this motion is carried in the affirmative, any member of the Board, who may have been visited by either of the Nabob's Sons after it is dark, is liable to be suspended from the Company's service, though it should appear on examination, that the visit was not made with the knowledge or consent of such Member; and notwithstanding the resolution

of

of the Council, not to visist the Nabob or his Sons, has been rescinded by a great majority of the Board.

GEO. MACKAY.

Mr. Jourdan.—The majority of the Board having determined that the resolution of Council, prohibiting the Members from visiting the Nabob, &c. is legally, if not formally rescinded; I know of no offence in visiting or receiving visits from the Nabob or his Sons, and of course cannot consent to the motion. But I cannot help adding, that to pass the motion as it stands, would be inconsistent with my ideas of justice, as it would be condemning a man without giving him an opportunity of defending himself, nay even before a charge be laid against him.

FRANCIS JOURDAN.

Mr. Palmer.—I am against the question for the reasons given by Mr. Mackay.

Mr. Stone.—I think the motion rather premature, and am therefore against the question.

Mr. Floyer.—Whenever a charge is given, and particularly in so general a manner as this seems to have been done by Mr. Russell, I conceive the only proper and regular manner of procedure is, to call upon Mr. Russell to explain such charge, in order to obtain the necessary proofs, and upon the obtainment of proof of any delinquency, the Board, in my opinion, should then, and not before, proceed to pass such censure upon the delinquents as they may deem themselves legally authorized to inflict. I therefore think this motion of the President premature, and am against its being made until a charge of delinquency is brought and proved, not only against any Members of this Board, but against any other persons residing under the British Government.

CHARLES FLOYER.

Mr. Dalrymple.—I am for the question, as I consider the prohibition against visits from the Nabob or his Sons still in force. If such visits are considered as criminal, they merit suspension.

Mr. Russell.—I look upon the resolution prohibiting visits or intercourse of any kind with the Nabob or his Sons still in force, and any Member that has infringed it deserves suspension upon being regularly convicted. I am therefore for the question.

Mr. Brooke.—I am against the question for the reasons assigned by Mr. Mackay.

Sir Robert Fletcher.—I subscribed to the opinion given by Mr. Jourdan, and am therefore against the question.

Mr. Stratton.—Against the question for the reasons given by Mr. Mackay.

President.—For the question.

Carried against the question by a majority of eight to three.

It being late in the day, and some of the Members proposing to adjourn, the Right Honourable the President observes, that if any Gentlemen are to rise from the table not satisfied that Mr. Russell can clearly maintain what he has asserted, he objects to the Council's breaking up at this time, and is for going into that enquiry immediately.

Mr. Floyer agrees to the President's desire of having the subject of Mr. Russell's letter discussed at present, and the majority of the Board being of that opinion, Mr. Russell's letter dated the 2d instant and entered in last Consultation is read.

Mr. Ruſſell is then deſired to acquaint the Board where he obtained the information, relative to Mr. Dawſon's having had large offers made him for the purpoſe mentioned in that letter.

Mr. Ruſſell replies, that what relates to Mr. Dawſon he had from himſelf; which he mentions to his credit.

Mr. Dalrymple likewiſe obſerves, that what relates to Mr. Dawſon he heard from him.

Mr. Floyer upon this occaſion ſolemnly declares, that this is the firſt time he ever heard of this matter, except from that paſſage of Mr. Ruſſell's letter to the Board read the other day.

The Right Honourable the Preſident then obſerves, that the other paſſage in Mr. Ruſſel's letter, reſpecting *nocturnal viſits*, proceeds from intelligence which that Gentleman received from himſelf; but that having failed in his application to the Board to make the puniſhment certain, he ſhall keep the names of the offenders concealed until another opportunity.

Mr. Floyer gives it as his opinion, that the Preſident ſhould be now requeſted to explain to the Board what he means by *nocturnal viſits*; and further deſired to favour the Board with the names of any of its Members who he thinks have committed any offence.

With reſpect to the *nocturnal viſits*, the Preſident eſteems all viſits made after ſun-ſet to be nocturnal viſits; and when he ſhall ſee an opportunity which ſuits well with the intereſt of the Company, and he is well perſuaded he can bring the puniſhment home, he will produce offenders, and not till then.

The

The Board then adjourn until Thursday next, to take into consideration the business of the investment at the Presidency and at Ingeram.

Pigot
Geo. Stratton
Rob. Fletcher
Henry Brooke
Claud Russell
Charles Floyer
Archdale Palmer
Francis Jourdan
Geo. Mackay.

Fort St. George, 9 August. 1776.

AT A CONSULTATION. Revenue Department.

PRESENT,

The Right Honorable Lord Pigot, Prefident.

Friday 9th

George Stratton,	Henry Brooke,
Claud Ruffell,	Alexander Dalrymple,
Charles Floyer,	John Maxwell Stone,
Archdale Palmer,	Francis Jourdan,

George Mackay.

TNE Honorable Company's Ship-Revenge being under difpatch for the Northern fettlements, conformable to what he mentioned in confultation the 9th inftant, the Prefident lays before the Board, the draught of a letter to Mafulipatam, that Mr. Floyer may proceed thither, if it be convenient to him.

To Charles Floyer, Efq; Chief, &c. and Council at Mafulipatam.

GENTLEMEN,

Draught of a letter to Mafulipatam.

THE Court of Directors having been pleafed to nominate Mr. Floyer to the Chiefship of Mafulpatam, next after Mr. Whitehill, and the fame being vacant by the refignation of that gentleman, Mr. Floyer proceeds accordingly to take charge of that fettlement.

As complaints have arifen from the fervants of the Company becoming fecurity for the payment of the Kifts due to the Company, and the influence they have had, and authority exerted in the country having been injurious in the greateft degree to the natives, who had prior affignments on the country, for monies fupplied the different Zemindars for payment of their Kifts, &c. We direct that in time to come, no fervant of the Company fhall, on any account whatever, directly, or indirectly, lend money to the Country Powers, or be in any refpect whatever concerned in the collection of the revenues.

Lauldofs the Soucar, acquaints our Prefident, that he has a demand upon the country of Opparow Zemindar, but this Soucar having been interrupted in collecting his debts, we recommend to your attention his particular cafe, and direct that you give him all proper aid and affiftance; as alfo in recovering his debts of the Zemindar, Vaforiddy, and the Pettaporam Zemindar, although this laft was during the Moorifh government.

The complaints made by the Nabob to our Honorable Mafters fhall be removed by the land's being let out in future, either by the Committee of circuit or the Prefident and Council here, and of this you will make public Proclamation, that propofals will be received until the firft of March next, for the renting of that part of the Circars under your management, after the prefent term expires. Thefe propofals muft be for one year only; for although we are fatisfied larger offers might be expected, were we to grant a longer leafe, the Court of Directors would doubtlefs difapprove our fo doing, before the Committee of Circuit had fome enquiry into that part of their eftate.

Read the following letter from the Nabob to Lord Pigot, dated 5th Auguft 1776.

I have

I have received your letter, dated the 23d of July, and now reply to it in part; you write, that the term of the rent of Tripasore, &c. "districts is nearly expired, and desire me to inform you whether I wish "to rent them for another year." I need not mention how regularly I have hitherto paid the annual rents notwithstanding the troubles, failure of rains, and considerable losses I have suffered in the past years. This I doubt not will meet with the Company's approbation; if they will do me the favor in future to take my security in the same manner as before for the Jaghire districts, it will be a kindness, and will also be advantageous to the Company. In my letter of the 16th July, I wrote to you concerning the tenants of those districts, and in reply thereto, you have not written explicitly. I have therefore sent enclosed, a draught for a Company's order, regarding the Jaghire tenants; do me the favor to send me one agreeably to that form, as it will be useful to the Company's affairs. After writing the above, your letter was brought me of the 5th August; as it relates to the business above mentioned, writing an answer would be repetition. What can I say more?

Letter from the Nabob.

Draught for an Order from the Company.

IN like manner as the Company's Deputies, that is to say, the former Governors, determined that the Managers of the Company's Jaghire districts should allow the tenants their usual share of produce and other customs, conformably to the practice held in the time of Saadut Ulla Cawn, and that the tenants receiving the same, should exert themselves to increase the cultivation and population of the said districts; so also, an order is now issued, that the Managers of the said districts, do according to the practice held in the time of Saadut Ulla Cawn, allow the Ryots or tenants their usual share, together with the Inauns, Shotrums, &c. for which they have Sunnuds from the Soubadar; that the tenants do receive their usual share, according to the practice in time of Saadut Ulla Cawn, together with the Inauns Shotrums, &c. for which

which they have Sunnuds from the Soubadars, and that they do exert themſelves to increaſe the cultivation and population of the Company's Jaghire Diſtricts aforeſaid, in caſe of their acting contrary to this order, they ſhall not have protecton.

The Right Honorable the Preſident lays before the Board the draught of a letter in anſwer to the above; and the form of a Cowle, which he recommends to be ſent to the Nabob.

To the Nabob

In the letter your Highneſs has done me the honor to write, you are pleaſed to offer your Highneſs's ſecurity for the Trepaſſore, &c. diſtricts, in the ſame manner as before, without taking notice of the new ſtipulations expreſſed in my letter of the 23d July; I muſt again therefore deſire a direct reply, whether you wiſh that the ſaid diſtricts ſhall be let on your ſecurity for another year, on the conditions ſpecified in the accompanying Cowle, and Guntoor Vencatachellum being dead, the name is left blank for your Highneſs to fill up.

The Preſident takes notice, that a compariſon having been made between the preſent Cowle and thoſe granted in former times, many neceſſary things appear to him to have been omitted in the preſent form; he therefore propoſes, that the following Cowle ſhould be ſent to the Nabob, to ſatiſfy him in the particular conditions on which the Council propoſe to offer him the Trepaſſore, &c. diſtricts at rent.

THIS INDENTURE, made this —— day of Auguſt, in the year of our Lord one thouſand ſeven hundred and ſeventy-ſix, and in the ſixteenth year of the reign of our Sovereign, Lord George the Third, by the Grace of God, King of Great Britain, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c. Between the Right Honorable Lord Pigot Preſident and Governor, &c. Council of Fort St. George, on the coaſt of Choromandel,

on

on behalf of the Honourable United Company of Merchants trading to the East Indies, on the one part, and

on the other part witnesseth, that the said President and Council, for divers causes, and good reasons them thereunto moving, have demised, granted, and to farm letten, and do by these presents demise, grant, and to farm let, unto the said his heirs, executors administrators or assigns, all the grounds, houses, towns, and gardens, juncan places, and pollygars, villages belonging to the said Company within the districts of Trepassore, seven Magans, Conjeveram, Trichiconum, Chingleput, Jagueer, and Wodarapet, Munnamungatum, Carangoly, Cavantandelum, Autremalor, and Salivauk, Covelony, and the rents and revenues thereof, to have and to hold the said demised premises, and every part and parcel thereof, unto the said his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, unto the full end and expiration of one year, to be accounted from the 1st instant, and ending the last day of July, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven; he yielding and paying to the said President and Council the yearly rent or sum of three hundred and twenty-four thousand (324000 Pagodas) in manner following, that is to say,

On the 31st day of	January	—	100,000
On the 30th	June	—	124,000
On the 30th	September	—	100,000
	Making together		324,000

And if it shall happen, that the aforesaid payments shall not be made within the space of two months after the same are due, being lawfully demanded, that then the said his heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns, shall forfeit and pay unto the said President and Council for the use of the Company aforesaid.

5 I It

It is alſo further covenanted and agreed by and between the parties to theſe preſents; that the ſaid his heirs, executors, or aſſigns, ſhall not receive, or cauſe to be received, the produce of ſuch villages as have been appointed as Jaghires, or granted as Inaums, choutrums, or charitable gifts.

It is alſo further agreed, that the ſaid his heirs, executors, adminiſtrators or aſſigns, ſhall not receive, or cauſe to be received more, or in any kind or degree whatſoever, for the rates of the Juncans then was collected in the time of Nabob Suadet Ulla Cawn; and it is agreed that the ſhares or proportions of the corps to be allowed to the cultivators and inhabitants, ſhall be the ſame as were allowed in the time of that Nabob; and if the ſaid his heirs, executors, adminiſtrators or aſſigns, ſhall act any thing contrary to the true intent and meaning of theſe premiſes, he or they ſhall be ſubject to ſuch fine as the ſaid Preſident and Council ſhall adjudge.

It is further agreed, that for all perſons that may come to inhabit within the limits of the demiſed premiſes, the ſaid his heirs, &c. ſhall no ways moleſt or hinder them, but ſhall allow them ſuch ground to build on as the Preſident and Council ſhall think fit; and further,

That the ſaid his heirs, &c, ſhall not exerciſe any judicial authority over any of the ſaid Company's inhabitants, either by confinement, inflicting corporal puniſhment, or extorting from them any of their goods and chattels; but if there be any juſt cauſe of complaint, he ſhall make application for juſtice to the Preſident and Council aforeſaid.

And it is further agreed, that the ſaid Preſident and Council ſhall make a reaſonable and equitable allowance for all loſſes the ſaid

may

may ſuſtain by means of the Marattas, or other enemies; but the ſaid   is to keep at all times, at his own charge, a proper Sibendy to preſerve peace and good order. And it is alſo further agreed, that the trees in the ſaid diſtricts ſhall not be deſtroyed or damaged, or the ſheep or cattle of the inhabitants taken under any pretence; and whereas it has been reſolved, by the ſaid Preſident and Council, that the Company's weavers ſhall not pay any taxes, or be liable to perſonal ſervice, a deduction of pagodas ſhall be made out of the laſt kiſt of the ſaid rent upon that account.

And it is alſo agreed, that the ſaid   ſhall repair all the Tanks and Water-courſes in the ſaid diſtricts, without any deduction from the rents, in ſuch manner, that they ſhall be delivered up at the expiration of this leaſe in ſuch condition as ſhall be approved by the Committee of Circuit, and that the money collected for ſuch public purpoſes ſhall be duly applied.

And it is alſo agreed, that the ſaid   his heirs, &c. ſhall not make any mortages of the lands now put under his charge or any part of them, or their produce, as ſuch mortgages ſhould they be made, will be conſidered as invalid.

And it is hereby further agreed, that the Committee appointed by the Honorable Court of Directors to make the circuit of the diſtricts now let to farm, ſhall have full liberty to explore the ſaid diſtricts, and to aſcertain the real produce and revenues thereof, the number of inhabitants, the ſtate of the manufactures, the groſs amount of revenues, articles from which they ariſe, the mode by which they are collected, the charges of collection, the ſpecific proportions uſually reſerved by the Government, and that which cuſtom or uſage has allotted to the cultivator as the reward of his labour; to enquire alſo what ſecurity the native has for his property. And it being the earneſt deſire of the ſaid Company

Company to free the inhabitants, as far as may be in their power, from undue exactions and oppressions; all farmers who shall exact more than their due proportion from their under tenants shall forfeit their farms.

Lastly, it is agreed as aforesaid, that if at any time a disagreement should arise, concerning any of the beforementioned articles, or concerning any matter or thing that may hereafter be disputable, and not herein provided for; in such case, it shall be left to the determination of the President and Council. In witness whereof, the said President and Council have set their hands, and caused the said Company's seal to be affixed to one part of this Indenture, and the said
to the other part, hath set his hand and seal the day and year, first above written.

Witness.

Mr. Mackay. Some of the members objecting to the above cowle being sent, the President takes the opinion of the Board upon the subject, as follows. As the jaghire for some years past, has been let to the Nabob only by letter from year to year, I am for his having it the ensuing year in the same manner; adding what the Company say in their orders by the Grenville, that the Committe of circuit shall be at liberty to explore the country, and to ascertain the real produce and revenues thereof. I am besides, against the cowle now proposed by the President, because the terms of it differ from the letter written to the Nabob the 23d July, wherein he is told the conditions on which he is to have the Jaghire.

GEORGE MACKAY.

Mr. Jourdan. I do not approve of the cowle, or of that part of the letter relating thereto. It appears that the Nabob has never had a cowle; but that the Inaum lands have been continued from to time; under his management by letter, he not having been considered in the same light as any other renter, and a letter having been written on the

23d

23d July, to which the anſwer of the Nabob is inſufficient, I think, that the Nabob ſhould be required to anſwer the ſame particularly, and that if he conſent, his anſwer ſhall be received as an agreement. After the letter of the 23d ult. to require freſh conditions muſt appear extraordinary.

FRANCIS JOURDAN.

Mr. Palmer ſubſcribes to Mr. Jourdan's opinion.

Mr. Stone.—Although the Nabob has for ſome years paſt had the management of the Trepaſſore, &c. diſtricts without a cowle, yet as the Court of Directors have thought proper that we require from him particular ſtipulations with regard to theſe lands, I think that a cowle is neceſſary, and therefore approve of what is propoſed by the Preſident.

Mr. Floyer.—I concur in opinion with Mr. Jourdan, being induced to think a cowle unneceſſary to be now tendered to the Nabob, as upon reference to the proceedings there does not appear to have been a cowle executed by any perſon nominated by the Nabob ſince the Year 1765, which was on a leaſe for three years.

CHARLES FLOYER.

Mr. Dalrymple.—I approve the letter and cowle recommended by the Preſident, if the Jaghire is to be let for another year to the Nabob, either as principal or ſecurity; but I agree with the Board (Vide Conſult. Auguſt 4, 1775) that the Nabob's having any thing to do with it is very prejudicial to the Company's intereſt; and our Honorable Maſters having been pleaſed to expreſs their wiſh to keep the Jaghire in their immediate poſſeſſion, removes the only reaſon for which the Board were then induced to let theſe diſtricts be continued under the Nabob. I gave my conſent to his having it for one year more, in conſideration that the Com-

pany have exprefsly ordered it to be a condition in the agreement to be concluded with him, that it fhould be open to the infpection of the Committee of Circuit; and I thought the proper enquiry into the value and ftate of the Jaghire, as well as into the moft convenient method of managing it, might be determined in the fucceeding year, with lefs rifk to the Company than if immediately taken into their own management; and I alfo confidered, that the minute enquiry neceffary to attain a perfect knowledge of it would appear to the inhabitants, whilft the Nabob had the management, only as the meafures of the Company's government to relieve them from oppreffion; but if it were done under the Company's immediate government, it might give an alarm to their apprehenfions: but the late refolution of the Council, concerning the Committee of Circuit, renders all thefe objects abortive.

I think it abfolutely neceffary to define what fhall be confidered as repair to the Tanks; for it is faid, Confult. July 20, 1764, "As "the Tanks in the feveral countries are much in want of repair," Agreed, each bidder be required to fignify the meafures he propofes to take for repairing them. I am informed the feveral propofals imported, that a very large fum, it is faid 50 or 60,000 Pagodas was to be laid out in repairing the Tanks. Vencatachillum, in his cowle, engages to repair the Tanks without any deduction of rent: no fum is fpecified, but I am told it was underftood to be to the fame amount as the other propofals; however, nothing of this kind has been done to the Tanks during the whole period that the Nabob has had the Jaghire under his management, which I am affured are in a worfe ftate now than in 1764, altho' the annual taxes collected for repairs of Tanks in the feveral diftricts amount to a very confiderable fum, which has been otherwife applied. In the Poonamalee Country alone the taxes on this account amount to 2,500 Pagodas, which in the twelve years, fince 1764, is 30,000 Pagodas.

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I do not think it can be ſaid there are new conditions in this cowle, as the fine for non-payment of rent before the expiration of two months after due, is agreeable to the old cowles, which have been altered without any authority that I can find, and the preſent form of cowles has been repreſented by the Committee of Revenues as very imperfect: if this can be called a *new condition*, it is a condition more *favourable* to the Nabob, as in the cowle granted to Vencatachillum it is ſtipulated, that if payment is not made in ten days after due, the cowle ſhall be forfeited; and in that now propoſed the Nabob is allowed two months.

Mr. Ruſſell.—Whenever Lands are let I think a cowle neceſſary, be it the Nabob or any other perſon that rents them. The draught now before the Board I approve, as well as the letter propoſed to accompany it.

Mr. Brooke ſubſcribes to the opinion of Mr. Mackay.

Mr. Stratton.—On reference to the records read at the Board it appears, that the firſt cowle for the Jaghire was granted to Guntoor Vencatachillum, in 1765 for three years, and that ſince that time no cowle whatever has been entered into by the Nabob, or any other perſon in his name; but a letter was wrote to the Nabob when ſuch term expired, acquainting him that the Board conſented he ſhould continue to have the management of the revenue of the Trepaſore, Poonamalee, &c. diſtricts, Vide Conſ.
expreſſing the time on the ſame terms as they have been held by the Nabob for ſome years paſt. 4 Aug. 1775.
It is my opinion, that the ſame mode ſhould now be obſerved, by a letter being wrote to aſk him, whether he is willing to take the Trepaſore, &c. diſtricts, on the terms mentioned in the Preſident's letter, dated July 23, which if he complies with, I think his anſwer ſhould be looked upon as an agreement (as heretofore) that he will comply therewith, without his executing the propoſed cowle, which contains new matter from that entered into in 1765, or the letter wrote to him the 23d of July laſt.

Preſident

Prefident.—Of opinion that the letter and cowle fhould be fent.

The majority of the Board being of opinion that the cowle propofed by the Prefident fhould not be fent to the Nabob, the following draught of a letter is now prepared in anfwer to that received from him, and entered in the foregoing part of thefe minutes.

To the Nabob,

IN the letter your Highnefs has done me the honor to write me, dated the 5th inft. you are pleafed to fay, that if in future I will take your fecurity, in the fame manner as before, for the Trepaffore, &c. diftricts, it will be a kindnefs, and will alfo be advantageous to the Company. As in the above letter your Highnefs takes no notice of the new ftipulations, expreffed in my letter of the 23d of July, I muft defire a direct reply, whether you wifh that the faid diftricts fhall be continued under your Highnefs's management for another year, on the conditions mentioned in the above letter of the 23d of July? I think it neceffary here to fet forth the Company's orders more particularly, with refpect to the faid diftricts, in order to explain what the Company are pleafed to direct fhall be an exprefs condition, in the agreement made with your Highnefs for continuing the faid diftricts under your management for another year.

That the Committee of Circuit be at full liberty to explore the country, and to afcertain the real produce and revenues thereof, the number of inhabitants, the ftate of the manufactures, the grofs amount of revenues, articles from which they arife, the mode by which they are collected, the charges of collection, the fpecifick proportion ufually received by the government, and that which cuftom or ufage has allotted to the cultivator as the reward of his labour; to enquire what fecurity the native has for his property; to deliver the inhabitants, fo far as may be in their power, from undue exactions and oppreffions; that the produce to be received by the farmers of every denomination be afcertained and exactly defined; and that all farmers who fhall exact more than their due proportion from their

under

under tenants ſhall forfeit their farms, and that eſpecial care be taken that the means of redreſs, in caſe of impoſition or oppreſſion, be rendered as eaſy as poſſible.

I have the honor to be, &c. &c.

Fort St. George,
Auguſt 9, 1776.

P I G O T.

The following minute delivered in by Mr. Stratton, Sir Robert Fletcher, Meſſrs. Brooke, Floyer, Palmer, Jourdan and Mackay, is now read:

Minute of the Majority.

Minutes of this kind cannot be written at the Board; if they could, when diviſions run as they have done, and when ſuch doctrines have been held forth as we have heard, diſcuſſions at the Board would have brought on perſonalities which might have involved the Company's affairs in more difficulties than they now are.

We cannot but obſerve, that the Preſident hath given us numberleſs inſtances of plans prepared in the Cabinet and hurried through the Board, ſuch as the letter per Ankerwyke, which ought to have been the effect of deliberation. The motions, for the Preſident going to Tanjour, his powers, his diary, his motion for ſending the Nabob to Arcot, the Chief and Council for Tanjour, &c. and we may alſo ſay, every motion he has oppoſed, has been delayed for conſideration from day to day; and ſince the Preſident hath ſaid the majority put a negative on every meaſure he recommends, we take this opportunity of aſſuring him, that whenever he ſhall propoſe meaſures to the Board, which we in our conſciences can approve, he ſhall meet with all our ſupport; and whether, in our duty to the publick, we could or could not ſupport the meaſures we have oppoſed, the Court of Directors will be able to determine.

We have ſo often heard from the Preſident and Mr. Dalrymple of the Council being appointed to aſſiſt the Preſident, that we are not ſurprized to hear the Preſident ſpeak of his *particular reſponſibility*. We will, to ſhew the futility of this opinion, inſert the following ſtanding order, although

though the very constitution of the Company is so clear as to render it quite unnecessary to any one who does not wilfully refute conviction. The requisition of the President, that Mr. Russell shall proceed to Tanjour, and his refusal of assent to Col. Stuart's going to Tanjour until Mr. Russell goes thither, are equally extraordinary, and equally inadmissible.

Standing orders from England, January 3, 1678, Par. 54.

" WHATEVER shall be agreed on by the majority, shall be esteemed " the order by which each one is to act; and accordingly every individual " person, even the dissenters themselves, are to perform their parts in the " prosecution thereof, and in so doing they do their duty, and must not " be blamed for the event."

9th March, 1702, Paragraph 2, of the instructions to Mr. Pitt, &c.

WE do strictly enjoin, that all our affairs be transacted in Council, and ordered and managed as the majority of the Council shall determine, and not otherwise upon any pretence whatever, &c. &c.

When Lord Pigot came to Council on the   August, we understood, that on the evening he summoned the Council on a different business from that on which they had adjourned; he knew not that Messrs. Russell and Dalrymple intended to write the letters which are before the board. On the consultation of Monday, he has recorded, that he gave Mr. Russell the information touching the *nocturnal visits*, which Mr. Russell has introduced into his letter, and on which he has founded that extraordinary motion he recorded on Consultation, as the third he intended to make; let these circumstances speak for themselves.

Before we enter farther into the subject of the motions, it may not be unnecessary to make some observation touching the alarms of which the Rajah's

Rajah's mind ought to be quieted. We have in the Military Department given an opinion, that no such alarms exist; but that if the Rajah has alarms, the President ought to have explained them to the Board, that proper remedy might be applied. We know not of any; but we cannot help saying, that if any could exist, they most likely have sprung from the delay of communication of the resolution of the Board of the 14th June, as such delay may carry with it an air of mistery, and might raise suspicions; but even in this case, the blame would fall on the President, who ought, when at Tanjore, to have informed the Rajah, there were demands of Tunkedar's, Mortgages, &c. and that he could not of himself determine the validity of those claims. But if alarms arising from this exist, the most likely method to remove them will be, without more delay, to tell the Rajah, that he ought to have been informed of these demands from the President when at Tanjour. That we have considered the subject, and are of opinion, that the demands on the crop are consistent with reason, justice, and the Company's orders; that in consequence he ought to ascertain what the produce hath been, and fix upon periods for paying the same, as his finances will best admit. That the Company mean to do *strict justice* to the Rajah, *as he may clearly see by the orders which have taken the country from the Nabob, and restored it to him*; that the whole of the board have not agreed in opinion touching the grain on the ground, but that our proceedings go to the Court of Directors, to whom, if he thinks proper, we shall be ready faithfully to represent every circumstance he may desire; that their favorable disposition towards him cannot be doubted, and that, if they should judge this Government has erred, they may reverse that judgment. To which we should add, that the Court of Directors thinking the Company Guarantees of the treaty of 1762, *We are consequently as much in duty bound to support his just rights against the Nabob*, as the Nabob against Hyder, or any other of the Country or European Powers.

When the Company directed us to carry into execution a plan, which they were apprehensive might bring on consequences of the utmost

moſt importance, they judged the Board competent to determine upon it; and can we with propriety, when that buſineſs of importance is finiſhed, when we have on mature conſideration reſolved that the Committee of circuit ſhall immediately ſet out, when we know that the buſineſs of the Northern ſettlements is of great conſequence to the Company, loſe a moment in a debate, whether we ſhall call up the Chiefs from the Northward or not? We have heard of the alarms of the Rajah, of the oppreſſions of the Nabob, of abuſes exiſting in the ſettlement, but with a Council inferior in number, the buſineſs of the Company on emergent occaſions hath been well conducted; we have denied the exiſtence of juſt alarms, we are convinced of our intention to do the inhabitants of the Jaguire as well as the Company ſtrict juſtice; and we think ourſelves competent to redreſs any grievances or alarms, which may have occured at the Preſidency; we therefore could not heſitate a moment in refuſing conſent to his firſt motion; but what ſhall we ſay of the third? Can any thing more ſtrongly mark the very extraordinary diſpoſition and deſigns of the Preſident, than that motion, that if the *nocturnal viſits* were made to Members of the Council they ſhould ſtand ſuſpended? The Preſident could not but remember that the Majority had determined the reſolution of touching the Nabob and his ſons, ſtood legally, if not formally reſcinded; but he endeavours to avail himſelf of the want of form, thereby reproaching thoſe Members who failed in the execution of their duty, and who did not exert their rights, by inſiſting upon the Preſident's putting the queſtion for reſcinding that reſolution. Unwilling to proceed to extremities, they adopted a mode they judged likely to anſwer the end without it; but the Preſident ſays, when he ſhall ſee an opportunity, which ſuits with the intereſt of the Company, and he is well perſuaded he can bring the puniſhment home, he will produce the offenders, and not till then. This is the return for our moderation, and that delicacy we have ſhewn the Preſident, and which is but one of the many inſtances we might quote. This ſhews the neceſſity of a ſtrict adherence to the principles of our conſtitution; but we hope the Preſi-

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dent will not put us to ſuch another trial. When the Company ſhall read, that notwithſtanding their orders to Bengal, that a man ſhall have a copy of the charge againſt him, time to anſwer, and croſs queſtion the witneſs, *one of their Preſidents ſhall endeavour to paſs an order to condemn men unknown, unheard, on a ſpecies of offence not admitted as an offence by the majority of the Board,* they cannot but be aſtoniſhed. If the motion had paſſed into a reſolution, it would have reflected on thoſe who had paſſed it; for it is contrary to humanity and juſtice, the characteriſticks of a free ſtate; and only to be reconciled to the cuſtoms of thoſe arbitrary Courts, where men have formerly been tried and condemned unheard.

George Stratton,
Robert Fletcher,
Henry Brooke,
Charles Floyer,
Archdale Palmer,
Francis Jourdan,
George Mackay.

The Preſident obſerves, on the firſt part of the above minute, which relates to Mr. Ruſſell, that that gentleman was, by a former reſolution of the Board, appointed reſident at Tanjore, although one of the Committee of circuit; that this reſolution has never been reſcinded; and therefore he ſhould have thought Mr. Ruſſell at liberty to go to Tanjore without infringing any ſubſequent reſolution, provided he could be back in time to proceed on the circuit within the period fixed for his departure. That notwithſtanding he, the Preſident, was of this opinion, he had before mentioned his wiſh, that Mr. Ruſſell might have expreſs permiſſion from the Board to proceed for a few days to Tanjore; but as nothing of that kind is yet recorded, he now repeats his requeſt, and deſires the ſentiments of the Board upon it.

Mr. Mackay.—I am againſt Mr. Ruſſell's going to Tanjore, and will delivered in a minute on the ſubject.

Mr. Jourdan. As I never have consented to Mr. Russell's going to Tanjore, for reasons before entered in consultation, so I cannot with propriety give my consent to it at this time.

FRANCIS JOURDAN.

Mr. Palmer against it, and will deliver in a minute.

Mr. Stone for it.

Mr. Floyer. I am against it, for the reasons I have before assigned, as well as that Mr. Russell has said he shall not be ready to go on the circuit before the 1st October.

Mr. Dalrymple for it.

Mr. Russell for it.

Mr. Brooke against it, for the reasons assigned by Mr. Jourdan.

Mr. Stratton against it.

President for it.

Agreed by a majority of 6 to 4, that Mr. Russell be not permitted to go to Tanjore.

George Stratton,
Henry Brooke,

Charles Floyer,

Archdale Palmer,
Francis Jourdan,
George Mackay,
Pigot.

Fort

Fort St. George, 16th Augst, 1776.

AT A CONSULTATION.

Rev. Department.

PRESENT,

The Right Honourable Lord Pigot, Prefident.

Friday 16th.

George Stratton,	General Sir Robert Fletcher,
Henry Brooke,	Claud Ruffell,
Alexander Dalrymple,	John Maxwell Stone,
Archdale Palmer,	Francis Jourdan,

George Mackay.

Minutes of laft confultation read.

Mr. Jourdan delivers in the following minute, in reply to that part of the Prefident's minute of the 5th inftant, which refpects him.

Minute of Mr. Jourdan.

Mr. Jourdan thinks it neceffary to deliver in the following minute on the fubject of the circuit, which he had prepared to have laid before the board, but the difputes which occurred prevented him from doing it.

Mr. Jourdan begs leave to obferve, that Lord Pigot has mifunderftood him, if he imagined that he wanted to take from the committee of circuit, what the Council had entrufted to them: All Mr. Jourdan meant was, that while the gentlemen were acting to the northward, the committee of revenue might collect and arrange the accounts againft their return. Lord Pigot's minute carries with it an implication of want of zeal in Mr. Jourdan for the fervice, in having declined the vacancy in the committee of circuit. Mr. Jourdan hopes he may, without being prefumptuous, fay, that he has fhewn as much attention and zeal

to

to the service of the Company as any of the members of the board, and that the board have been pleased to confer upon him, on that account, marks of their favour. He does also further declare, that having applied himself very particularly to the affairs of the Company at the presidency, he thinks he can render them more essential service by remaining here than by going upon the circuit, otherwise he should not have wished to decline it.

FRANCIS JOURDAN.

Mr. Russell enters the following minute.

Minute of Mr. Russell.

Mr. Stratton, Sir Robert Fletcher, and Messrs. Brooke, Floyer, Palmer, Jourdan and Mackay, in their minute of the 9th instant, found an opinion upon my letter of the 1st, and the declarations I made at the Board the that there will appear to the Court of Directors an unwillingness in me to set out upon the circuit. I must remark in reply, that my letter was before the Board, when I was acquitted of backwardness in my duty to the Company, and that those gentlemen in this very minute, acknowledge, that it would have been *distressing* us to fix our departure for 15 days, and therefore extended it to 30. On urgent occasions, private considerations ought not to have any weight with this Board, and I should hope no member is capable of making them a plea for declining publick service. For my own part, I expressed my readiness to go to the southward agreeably to the President's request; but in the present instance, the short time allowed us being meant only to frustrate a former resolution of the Board, I submit to the Court of Directors, whether more regard ought not to have been paid to the declarations I made, and whether more time might not reasonably have been expected after I had made my arrangements for going to Tanjore in consequence of such resolution, and had even sent part of my baggage thither?

I chharfully

I chearfully appeal likewife to the Court of Directors, whether my declaring, *under fuch circumftances*, that inftead of the 1ft September I could not poffibly be ready before the 1ft October, to go to the northern extremity of the Company's poffeffions, on a fervice which will require years to execute, or Mr. Jourdan's reafons (26th July) for declining that fervice, and Mr. Mackay's letter of the 29th July, indicate moft unwillingnefs?

With equal chearfulnefs I further fubmit to the Court of Directors the propriety of what thefe gentlemen term a *remonftrance*. Thefe gentlemen furely cannot mean to deny that a Member of the Board has a right to exprefs his fentiments, nay more, to *remonftrate*, or even *proteft*. What I faid was founded on public grounds; and as the appointment for Tanjore, which ftill exifted, appears highly expedient, I did hope that it would firft take place; and the more fo, as it was fo underftood at the time the appointment was made.

Thefe gentlemen do Mr. Dawfon great injuftice, in fuppofing he gave the information mentioned in my letter to be brought forth at a future time; I declare fuch was never his intention, and it is a thing felf-evident that it could not be, for he did not dream, more than myfelf, that the appointment of a Refident at Tanjour would have been overfet after his departure; if he had, probably he would have laid open to the Board the various means taken with him to vote againft that appointment.

P I G O T.
GEO. STRATTON,
HENRY BROOKE,
CLAUD RUSSELL
ARCHDALE PALMER,
FRANCIS JOURDAN,
GEO. MACKAY.

Translation of a Letter from the Nabob to Mr. Stratton, acting Governor at Madrass; dated and received the 27th April, 1776.

Received per Grenville, 26th April, 1777.

Letter from the Nabob apprehensive that Lord Pigot will put the King of Tanjore in possession of some districts of Ramnaut and Shokungee.

In my letter to you of the 21st April,‡ I informed you of the uneasiness I suffered. I now hear that some of the Company's Seapoys are on the point of marching, to take possession of some districts of Ramnaut and Shokungee, on a groundless representation made by Tulgajee, that they belong to Tanjore. The districts of Ramnaut and Shokungee are quite distinct, and appertain in no manner whatever to Tanjore. Tulgajee, through pride and want of moderation, attempted formerly, in Mr. Dupre's Government, to get possession of the above-mentioned districts, and for that reason was punished; he then disclaimed all future pretentions to them in writing; I am astonished that Seapoys should now be sent on the misrepresentations of Tulgejee. Before Lord Pigot set out, I wrote to all my Amuldars in the Tanjore country, charging them strictly not to oppose any people that might be sent by his Lordship; and my people accordingly, notwithstanding they were a strong party did not oppose any of Lord Pigot's guards, but submitted without resistance to confinement, although they suffered worse treatment than is shewn to an enemy, and some of my principal people were confined with disgrace. As it is notorious that the Ramnaut and Shokungee districts do not in any manner belong to Tanjore, insomuch that every child in the Carnatick knows it, I have not hitherto thought it necessary to send any orders to my Amuldars in those districts; I therefore have now recourse to you, and shall write to them whatever you may direct; do me the favour to inform me speedily, what instructions I shall send them on the points that have occasioned my writing you this Letter.

What can I say more?

Extract of Letter from the Rajah of Tanjore, received at Fort St. George, 15th May, 1776, and received in London per Grenville, 25th April, 1777.

The Nabob continues to have Seapoys stationed at Shacaloor, Hanamantagoody, and Mungalacot, and when any people hang up a flag in those places,

‡ See Vol. I. page 112.

places, to signify that they belong to me, the Renter Marcai pulls them down by force, and tears them to pieces; he likewise seized the renter of Vellampad, put him on board a boat, and beat him very severely; he and his people are guilty of many such irregularities; I hope your Lordship will punish them accordingly, and order these countries to be delivered over to me. My fort, my kingdom, and myself, do all belong to your Lordship. I always obey your commands, and therefore write these things for your information.

One lack and 30,000 columns of grain had arrived on the Coast the 9th May, and there is more going there daily; if there were boats and donies ready to receive it, the bullocks would quickly return, and the whole would arrive soon. I am afraid that rain will fall, and that the grain will be damaged, which induces me to write so often. Continue to write to me of your welfare that my heart may be at rest.

What can I write more?

A Note enclosed.

Sea port of Trimaharajapatam is situated near the Subah of Majavaram, for which reason we sent above 10,000 columns of Paddy to the said port, in order to be sent to Madrass. As that said port belonged to the people of Caricol, † they put a stop to the said paddy and bullocks. You will be pleased to order it so, that they may return the said paddy and bullocks; we shall hereafter send no more paddy to the said port.

From the GOVERNOR to the RAJAH of TANJORE.

SIR,

Your Letter of the 7th of May made me very happy. I am glad to hear Yazarventarow Sooria Vainsey is returned to Tanjore; and I have read with much satisfaction the letter from Hyder Ally ‡ Cawn to you; every favour and mark of respect he is pleased to shew to you I esteem as done to myself, and it will strengthen the friendship between us.

I observe

† Caricol or Karicall belongs to the French.

‡ See the last page.

I obſerve by your letter of the 9th, that Ballkiſtna Shaiſtree from the Marattas was come to wait upon you : it is very pleaſing to me to hear of theſe congratulations from your friends; and I am well acquainted how proper your attention will be to them.

I am glad to find that ſo many of your truſty ſervants have returned to you, as has enabled you to entertain the Spearmen and Delayatts' you mention; and I am happy to find you are about repairing thoſe fine buildings which of late have been ſo much injured.

I obſerve what you are pleaſed to write in your letter concerning the *Malocr Calva*; and I will take the neceſſary meaſures to keep that Channel in that ſtate it has been theſe two years paſt.

I will write to the Officer in Hanamantagoody to put your people in poſſeſſion of that place; and like orders ſhall be ſent concerning Sacaloor and Mangalacotah, and I will make the neceſſary enquiries concerning the Chollair.

I will write to Colonel Harper to endeavour to ſecure ſome of thoſe robbers you mention, that they may be puniſhed in a proper manner ; and I hope Tondaman ‡ will pay that regard to the advice I ſhall give him, as will prevent any improper behaviour in the Polygars.

Proper people are ordered to receive the Paddy, and I hope they will be diligent in that buſineſs.

I have procured for you a fowling piece, which is plain and neat, and very proper for a ſportſman. The thoughts of your taking theſe amuſements gives me great ſatisfaction,

I remain with the greateſt eſteem,

S I R,

Your moſt obedient and moſt humble ſervant.

‡ Nalcooty Pollygar.

Extract of Fort St. George Military Consultations, 30th July, 1776.

Sir Robert Fletcher delivers in the following Minute.

In consequence of my minute delivered in ———, and the resolution of the Board thereupon, I shall proceed to point out the impediments I have to complain of, and to make reference to the several instances, wherein I think the powers to be exercised by the Military Commander in Chief, as explained and defined by the Instructions, have been superseded; and as the subject is of the first importance to the service, I trust the several members will examine with attention the real purposes meant by the Honourable Company to be attained, when they judged it necessary to define and separate the line of duty of the Military Commander in Chief from the former involved system, which, to use their own words, *had occasioned great injury to the service.*

The most concise method I can propose to the Board is, to state the several cases where I conceive the Instructions have been directly broke through, or the plain meaning of them frustrated, placing on the same page the Instructions alluded to: and, in order to convince the Board that my views never carried me to assume more power than the Honourable Company meant to be annexed to my station, I shall, in column third, lay before the Board the Questions I put to General Clavering, with his Answers now in my possession.

INSTRUCTIONS.

ARTICLE 42d.

" That all orders within the Garrison of Fort-William and town of " Calcutta, except such as relate to regimental detail, and to military " discipline, or to the defence of the Fort, be given in the name of the " Governor-General, who shall keep the keys of the Fort, and give the " parole; but orders respecting regimental detail and discipline of the " Army in general, including the Garrison of Fort-William, and Troops " stationed

"stationed in the town of Calcutta, shall be given in the name of the "Military Commander in Chief, or, in his absence, in the name of the "superior military Officer doing duty at Fort-William for the time "being, who shall communicate all such orders to the Governor-General "by his Aid de Camp, or other proper Officer, for his approbation, be-"fore they be issued in the said Garrison, or in the town of Calcutta."

ARTICLE 51st.

"That if the Governor-General and Council shall at any time think "proper to issue orders, under their hands, or by their Secretary, to any "Officer in the Army, and thereby suspend, or supersede the specifick "commands of the Governor-General, or Military Commander in Chief, "such orders shall be implicitly obeyed."

CASES.

CASE 1st.

There can be no doubt, but that the order for a Naig and three Seapoys, to be furnished from each Battalion towards forming a Company of Marksmen, comes under the head of military detail and discipline of the Army in general; nevertheless the Chief and Council of Ganjam did actually countermand my orders to the Officers commanding Seapoy Battalions in the Ichapore district: they writ publickly to the Board that they had done so, and there the matter still rests. The Chief and Council of Ganjam took this step on the supposition, perhaps, that they have the same power as the Governor and Council to supersede the specifick orders of the Commander in Chief, which power the Board itself, as I conceive the Company's Orders, is only to exercise, by issuing orders under their own hands, or by their Secretary. It is this authority assumed by the Chief and Council of Ganjam, which I feel to interfere with the duty of my office, and which is a contradiction to the Company's Instructions.

Queries

Queries put by Sir Robert Fletcher to General Clavering, with General Clavering's Anfwers.

QUERIES.

Query. " Can General Clavering remove any man or men from one " corps to another, without the approbation of the Chiefs and Council " in diftricts under the fubordinates? or can he make fuch removals in the " other corps in the Army, without firft applying to the Board ?"

Anfwer. The Commander in Chief, by virtue of the 42d Article of the Company's Inftructions, removes Officers and Soldiers from one corps to another, as he imagines will be moft conducive to military difcipline and the good of the fervice, without either applying to the Chiefs of fubordinates or to the Board. This authority was exercifed before his arrival, either by the Commander in Chief or by the Governor.

Query. " Do General Clavering's orders from Calcutta to the Troops " at Patna, and the other fubordinates, go through the Chiefs and Coun- " cil; and do fuch orders receive any authority but that of General " Clavering, before they go from the Prefidency ?"

Anfwer. " When refolutions are taken in Council which regard the " Army, a tranfcript of thofe refolutions is fent to the Military Com- " mander in Chief by the Secretary, and he iffues them to every Brigade, " and to every ftation, including the refidencies of the Chiefs and Coun- " cils. General Clavering's orders never go through the Chiefs and Coun- " cils, nor do they receive any authority but that which is above-men- " tioned."

CASE 2d.

Another inftance where I felt an interference with my duty arifes from the following complimentary note of the Right Honourable Prefi- dent, viz.

Note,

Note. " Lord Pigot's compliments to Sir Robert Fletcher, and desires
" that half of the Marksmen may do duty at the Company's Gar-
" dens, and half at Sir Robert's, and that all other Seapoys may
" join their battalions, as it has been represented that they are
" wanted for other duty."

Vide the late Instructions from England, and the Commission of the Governor and Commander in Chief respectively.

The construction I put upon the note, confirmed by the subsequent conversation between the Governor and my Aid de Camp, was, that without any order of the Board, Lord Pigot did actually interfere with the regimental detail and discipline of the army in general personally in some degree to me, in taking upon himself the disposal of my guard, as well as a select body of troops, which never made part of the garrison of Fort St. George; but as the Governor has since said to me, that it was not meant as an order, I mention it here that the line may be clearly known, and the Commander in Chief not subjected in future to such embarrassments. Those who choose to examine the (written) conversation, which passed between the Governor and my Aid de Camp, upon the matter, and my conduct in consequence of that conversation, will see, that I acted as if the *note* had been an order, and in contradiction to my own sentiments, expressed in the message I sent by my Aid de Camp to the Governor.

QUERIES.

Query. If General Clavering were at or near a subordinate, is he subject to the orders of the Chief and Council? or is he subject to any orders but those of the Governor-General and Council?

Answer. The Commander in Chief is not subject to the orders of the Chief and Council, either at or near the subordinates. He and all Commanding Officers are directed by the 54th Article of the Instructions, to comply with such requisitions as shall be made by the Company's chief civil servants for troops. In drawing up this Article the Court of Directors have strictly conformed to the practice in England, where all Military Officers are directed to lend assistance, when required, to the Civil Officers. General Clavering thinks himself not subject to any other orders in Bengal, but those of the Governor-General and Council, excepting such as he may receive from the Honourable the Court of Directors.

A R-

ARTICLE 45th.

" That temporary leave of abſence in time of peace be granted by the " Governor-General to Officers doing duty in the garriſon of Fort William, " or Town of Calcutta, and to all other officers by the Military Com- " mander in Chief of the Company's forces in Bengal, Bahar, and Oriſſa, " but ſuch leave of abſence ſhall in no caſe be extended beyond the " limits of the ſaid Provinces." Vide alſo the 42d Article quoted on Caſe 1ſt.

CASE 3d.

My powers of granting leave of abſence are defined with preciſion in the 45th Article, and yet it is a fact, that Officers doing duty in the diſtricts under the reſpective Chiefſhips cannot avail themſelves of this permiſſion, without previouſly having the permiſſion of the Chief and Council. If an Officer, thus authoriſed to abſent himſelf, is, notwithſtanding, to look to any other quarter for a confirmation of that authority, it is not fair argument to ſay, that the Chiefs, &c. thus aſſume a right to put a negative on my orders, contrary to the expreſs terms of the Inſtructions, and actually interfere in the military detail of the army: and on this occaſion I muſt add, that ſome of the gentlemen to the northward have actually given leave of abſence, independent of me.

Query. " Who grants leave of abſence to Officers in and near to " Patna, and other places, where there is a Chief and Council? and can " General Clavering grant ſuch leave, independent of the Chiefs and " Councils?"

Anſwer. " The Chief and Council at Patna, or at any other place " within theſe provinces, do not grant leave of abſence to Officers. Con- " formable to the 45th paragraph of the Court of Directors' Inſtructions, " temporary leave of abſence is granted by the Governor-General to Offi- " cers doing duty in the garriſon of Fort William, or Town of Calcutta, " and by the Military Commander in Chief of the Company's forces in " Bengal, Bahar, and Oriſſa, to all other officers. No doubt can ariſe on " the interpretation of this article."

ARTICLE 49th.

" That every resolution of the Governor-General and Council respect-
" ing the promotion or dismission of Military Officers be communicated
" to the Commander in Chief in writing, and issued in general orders by
" the Governor-General in the garrison of Fort William and Town of
" Calcutta, and to the rest of the army by the Military Commander in
" Chief for the time being."

CASE 4th.

When the Company so clearly point out the channel through which they order the most material and important objects on which the whole constitution of an army turns, such as the promotion and dismission of officers of all ranks, can there be a doubt of their intention, that in all other cases (those only excepted as mentioned in the Instructions) the same channel of the commander in chief is to be the medium through which the orders of the Board are to be conveyed to the army? I consider therefore, as tending to lessen my just authority with the army, and an impediment in the line of my duty, the issuing the orders of the Board through the Secretary to the ———for example,

1st. For the march of the European battalion and two battalions of Seapoys to take possession of Tanjore.

2d. For the 1st and 3d battalions of seapoys to be held in readiness to march when the prosecution of the Maratta War was ordered from Bengal.

3d. For the relief of the garrison of Vellum, and afterwards detaching part of that garrison to Trichinopoly: and,

4th. For the march of the European invalids and pensioners from Chingleput to Madrass.

I must here do the President the justice to say, that he did express himself upon the mode of issuing the orders agreeably to the late Instructions.

Query.

Query‡. " Do General Clavering's orders from Calcutta to the troops at " Patna, and to the other subordinates, go through the Chief and Council? " and do such orders receive any authority but that of General Clavering, " before they go from the Presidency?"

Answer. " When the resolutions are taken in Council with regard to the " army, a transcript of those resolutions is sent to the Commander in Chief " by the Secretary, and he issues them to every Brigade, and to every " station, including the residencies of the Chiefs and Councils. General " Clavering's orders never go through the Chief and Council, nor do they " receive any authority but that which is above-mentioned."

ARTICLE 50th.

" That all plans or regulations formed by the Military Commander in " Chief in time of peace, respecting the disposition of the Company's troops " in the provinces of Bengal, Bahar, and Orissa, be approved by the Gover- " nor-General and Council before they be carried into execution."— Vide also 49th article above quoted.

CASE 5th.

In January last, when it became necessary to carry into effect the resolution of the Board, upon a plan proposed by General Smith, for relieving the Seapoy battalions in the Mazulipatam circars every two years, instead of annually, the orders for this purpose were communicated to the Commandants of the different garrisons, by the Chief and Council of Mazulipatam.

In order to shew the Board the consequence attending this irregular channel of communicating military orders, I observe, that Lieutenant Walker, commanding Condapilly, at the time the above relief took place, addressed Colonel Flint, then commanding officer in the Mazulipatam circars to the following effect, viz. That he was informed by the Chief and Council of Mazulipatam, that they had ordered Lieutenant Clarke to march with three companies of Seapoys to relieve him in the command of Condapilly, and that he desired to know from him (Colonel Flint) whether or not he

‡ This Query and the Answer being the same as Case the 1st seems improper; but it is conformable to the original.

he should deliver up the fort to Lieutenant Clarke. " Colonel Flint, in an-" swer, directed Lieutenant Walker, lest the service should suffer by his " maintaining the fort, to deliver the charge to Lieutenant Clarke." It is evident, from the orders of the Board communicated by letter, under the hand of their Secretary, dated 4th November, 1774, to Colonel Flint, to send orders (and strongly expressive of his having the power to do so) to the garrisons of Samul Cotah and Condapilly; I say, it is evident, that had Lieutenant Walker refused to give up the fort, unless ordered to do so, through the channel of the authority by which he was judged to hold the command, his conduct would have been entirely consonant to the articles of war, in a strict obedience to the orders of his superior officer. This occurrence might have happened in a critical situation of affairs, and it is needless for me to point out the detriment which might in that case have happened to the service.

Vide the Query and Answer quoted in Case 4th.

ARTICLE 52d.

" That the keys of all the subordinate factories belonging to Fort-" William in Bengal, shall be kept by such persons as the Governor-Gene-" ral and Council shall please to appoint, but in all barracks or canton-" ments the keys shall be kept by the commanding officer of the troops."

Vide preamble to the articles of war, for the better government of the officers and soldiers in the service of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East-Indies.

CASE 6th.

The only military power which by the Instructions the Board can give to the chiefs of factories, is that of keeping the keys of the fort; yet in the general orders issued by the Board, of date the 26th October, 1774, it is directed, that " The chief civil servant shall receive returns of the troops " from the military commanding officer.

The

The Chiefs of subordinates order and approve garrison Courts Martial. By a warrant dated the 30th March, 1763, the Governor and Council of each Presidency are empowered by the Court of Directors, by virtue of a warrant from the King, to authorise the Commander in Chief of each detachment of their forces to hold Courts Martial; and in my opinion they can delegate a power either for general or garrison Courts Martial, to no person or persons who do not hold military commissions.

QUERY.

Can the Chiefs and Councils of subordinates order Courts Martial?

Answer. By a warrant dated the 30th March, 1763, the Governor and Council of each Presidency are empowered by the Court of Directors, by virtue of a warrant from the King, to authorise the Commander in Chief of each detachment of their forces to hold Courts Martial: I conceive Courts Martial held by any other authority to be illegal.

ARTICLE 54th.

" That the Commander in Chief, or superior Military Officer in every " district, be expressly ordered by the Governor-General and Council, to " comply with such requisitions as shall be made by the Company's chief " Civil Servants for troops, in all cases where military assistance may be " necessary; and in every such requisition, the chief Civil Servant shall ex- " plain to the Military Officer, in writing, so far as may be practicable, the " nature of the service to be performed; but the mode of carrying it into " execution, and the number of troops and quantity of stores requisite for " that purpose shall be determined by the Chief and Council; and in all " subordinates, where there shall not be an establishment of a Chief and " Council, the same shall be left to the judgment of the Military Officer, " in whom the executive power is invested."

CASE 7th.

Though it does not appear that Military Commanding Officers are to comply with any thing but requisitions for Military assistance, when it shall

be thought neceſſary, yet in the general orders iſſued by the Board, of date the 26th October, 1774, Military Commanding Officers in the ſubordinate diſtricts are directed to make returns, &c. to the Chiefs and Council, which is acknowledging the Chief and Council to be poſſeſſed of the ſame powers that by the former ſyſtem were exerciſed by the Chief alone, and which appear to have been taken from them by the late Inſtructions from home.

QUERY.

"If General Clavering were at or near a ſubordinate, is he ſubject " to the orders of the Chief and Council? or is he ever ſubject to any or- " ders but thoſe of the Governor-General and Council?"

Anſwer. " The Commander in Chief is not ſubject to the orders of the " Chief and Council, either at or near the ſubordinates."

" He and all Commanding Officers are directed by the 54th article of " the Inſtructions, to comply with ſuch requiſitions as ſhall be made by the " Company's chief Civil Servants for troops. In drawing up this article, " the Court of Directors have ſtrictly conformed to the practice in Eng- " land, where all Military Officers are directed to lend aſſiſtance when re- " quired to the Civil Officers. General Clavering thinks himſelf not ſubject " to any other orders in Bengal but thoſe of the Governor-General and " Council, excepting ſuch as he may receive from the Honourable Court " of Directors."

ARTICLE 43d.

" That in caſe Fort-William, or the town of Calcutta, ſhall at any time be " attacked or inveſted by an enemy, the keys ſhall be delivered to the " Military Commander in Chief, and the ſeparate Military authority of our " Governor-General ſhall be entirely ſuſpended and ceaſe until ſuch enemy " ſhall be repelled and no longer; and if the Governor-General and Mili- " tary Commander in Chief ſhall in either of the before-mentioned caſes " differ in opinion, reſpecting the exact time when the exerciſe of the " Governor-General's power ſhould be ſuſpended or reſumed, the Governor- " General and Council ſhall finally decide thereupon."

ARTICLE

ARTICLE 53d.

" That in case of the attack of any subordinate factory in Bengal, Bahar, " or Orissa, the keys shall be delivered to the Commander in Chief, or in " his absence to the superior Military Officer present at such factory; the " mode of defence left entirely to his judgment, and the whole executive " Military power vested in him 'till the enemy shall be repelled, subject " however at all times to the control of the Governor-General and Coun- " cil, or of the Military Commander in Chief."

CASE 8th.

The intelligence received by the Board of the hostile preparations of the French in India induced me to exercise what I judge a very essential part of my duty to the Company, viz. An enquiry into the state of the fortifications, provisions, and stores of the different forts garrisoned by our troops. In this enquiry I have met with obstructions. I have not yet received a state of the fortifications, provisions and stores of Masulipatam; the Civil Servants in that Chiefship being of opinion, that the information relative to the provisions and stores should not be required through the channel of the Commander in Chief. Though I have received a state of the fortifications, &c. of Cuddalore, it is here necessary to lay before the Board the *conditional* footing on which the information was given to Captain Tonyn, the Commandant of that garrison: this will best appear by a copy of his letter to me on that subject.

Copy of Captain Tonyn's Letter to the Commander in Chief, dated Cuddalore, 3d June, 1776.

SIR,

In compliance with your orders signified to me by your Secretary, I now have the honour to transmit a state of the fortifications of Cuddalore, shewing the repairs which are requisite for the defence of the Fort, so nearly as I can judge, likewise a state of the military stores; grain and provisions there are none for the use of the garrison. When in consequence of the directions I received, I sent an order to the Military Storekeeper of this garrison,

rison, to furnish me with a return of the provisions and grain laid in for the use of the garrison, previous to my examining the articles and requiring him to have the military stores in readiness for my inspection, I received an answer to the following purport; "That he was much surprized at having " orders sent to him from me, not knowing that he was under my au- " thority or direction; however, lest the public service should suffer any " impediment, he had directed the store serjeant to attend at the store-rooms, " and shew me the stores;" regarding the grain and provisions I was referred to the Chief.

As the storekeeper acts in a military capacity, I apprehend he consequently becomes subject to the orders, and under the authority of the Commandant of the garrison; but as the storekeeper of this garrison seems to be of another opinion, I beg to know how far the Military Storekeeper can be considered as independent of the Commandant.

I am with respect,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed)

J. Col. TONYN.

Vide Article 22d of the Articles of War for the better government of the Officers and Soldiers in the service, of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East-Indies.

I conceive the Company's military establishment ought to be governed by the articles of war, in all cases where they are authorised by the State to enforce them; the practice of the British army is the best rule to follow, in every case where doubts arise as to the mode of acting toward civil servants in their capacities of Surgeons, Paymasters, Commissaries, and Storekeepers, *where a Military Officer commands.* There is no doubt that persons acting under this description are considered as followers of the army, and treated as such in the British service; and in particular, that such persons cannot absent themselves from their station without the leave of the Commander in Chief. The article of war here alluded to applies to the case of force in the field: the question remains, whether persons serving in the above capacities in cantonment or garrisons, under a Military Commander, are

are not included under the description of the 22d article of war, and whether they are not upon this Coast as much under the authority of the Commander in Chief, as they are and have been in Bengal ever since the troops were regimented.

QUERY.

Query. " Is it General Clavering, or the Board, that grants leave of " absence to Paymasters and Surgeons of corps stationed out of Calcutta, " and Fort William ?"

Answer. " The Paymasters and Surgeons are considered as forming " part of the army "——Vide " Answer to Query (quoted on Case second) beginning, " Who grants leave of absence, &c."

CASE 9th.

The following movement of the troops and general orders took place by the immediate order of the Right Honourable President, given in his own name in a military character; and it will be found that his Lordship acted in that character, and issued orders not only to Colonel Harper, but to other Officers in his own name, both before and after the restoration of the Rajah at Tanjore. These movements and orders were put in execution without any communication with the Board, and were at that time totally unknown to me as Commander in Chief.

Vide the late Instructions from England, and the commissions from the Governor and the Commander in Chief of the forces respectively.

Vide the mode of conducting the service in Bengal, as appears from the answers of General Clavering to the Questions put to him by Sir Robert Fletcher.

Copy of Orders given out to the Troops at Tanjore the 16th April, 1776.

The Company of Artillery, under the command of Capt. Mackay, with the 2d Battalion, 1st Brigade, commanded by Major Marcell, to hold themselves in readiness to march on Thursday morning the 18th instant for Trichinopoly, leaving behind them one non-commissioned officer, and twelve of the Artillery, and three companies of Europeans, with their Officers

compleat, who are to march to-morrow evening into the Little Fort, where quarters will be allotted them. The 2d and 12th Battalions of Seapoys are to march at the ſame time, and encamp in the Fauſſe-braye of the Little Fort, where they are to continue until further orders. Col. Harper will order a diſtribution of thoſe places which can be converted into Officers quarters to be made to them. The hoſpital to be removed to Vellum, under the care of Doctor White. And Lord Pigot further orders, " That Doctors Gordon and Wilſon do continue, the firſt with " this garriſon, and the latter to proceed with Major Marcell's detach-" ment; Capt. Cotgrave, with the Battalion of Seapoys under his com-" mand, to hold themſelves in readineſs to march at the ſhorteſt notice."

In the inſtances I have pointed out, I mean not the leaſt reflection upon any one man, or ſet of men: it is my indiſpenſable duty either to ſee the late Inſtructions enforced, or to ſhew the Honourable the Court of Directors, and likewiſe General Clavering, the particular inſtances wherein I think, they are either ſuperſeded, or not carried into execution; and if, in the performance of this part of my duty, I ſhall not have the good fortune to meet the unanimous concurrence of the Board, I can only lament, that we ſhould continue to differ, not upon matters of opinion of our own, but upon what appears to me to be the evident ſenſe of the Company's late Inſtructions, which, at the concluſion of the 40th paragraph, have theſe expreſs words: " The particular powers veſted in our ſaid Gover-" nor and Military Commander in Chief reſpectively, under the authority " of the Commiſſions granted them by the Company, ſhall be exerciſed in " the manner and to the extent herein after-mentioned, *and not other-" wiſe.*"

Extract of Letter from General Clavering to the Court of Directors, dated Fort-William, the 20th of July, 1776; received per Grenville, 25th of April, 1777.

GENTLEMEN,

Underſtanding, from a Letter which I have received from Sir Robert Fletcher, that a majority of the Council of Madraſs had by a vote reſolved, after reading the Governor's Civil and the Commander in Chief's Commiſſions, " That the Governor ſhall hold the ſame authority in all

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" the other Forts and Settlements on that Coaſt, which he holds in Fort " St. George ;" and had in conſequence ordered Colonel Harper, at the head of three Battalions of Seapoys, and a company of Artillery in the Tanjore Country, to put himſelf under his command, and to obey all his orders ; and likewiſe had put another Battalion, and a Troop of Horſe under his command, to attend him to Tanjore : he found his Commiſſion of Commander in Chief ſuperſeded, and the orders of the General Court fruſtrated and eluded.

He further informs me, that the Right Honourable Lord Pigot did, in conſequence of that reſolution, iſſue orders to the Troops at Tanjore, as Commander in Chief.

Under theſe circumſtances nothing was left for Sir Robert Fletcher to do, in order to maintain the right which you had aſſigned him as Commander in Chief on that Coaſt, but to proteſt againſt thoſe proceedings, and to wait the determination of your juſtice.

Of ſo deliberate and ſo conſcious a violation of your commands, I may venture to affirm, the Journals of your Councils in India can produce no example.

Your orders were recent, clear and preciſe ; they were contained in the Inſtructions which were to carry into effect the Governor and Commander in Chief's Commiſſion, the firſt article of which declares,

40. " Having taken into our moſt ſerious conſideration the diſputes " which have ariſen in India, on account of the powers claimed by our Go- " vernor and Military Commander in Chief, under their reſpective Com- " miſſions, and the great injury occaſioned to the Service thereby, we " have thought proper, in order to prevent the like inconveniences in " future, to grant a Commiſſion to our Governor-General, conſtituting " him Governor and Commander in Chief of our Fortreſs and Garriſon " of Fort-William and Town of Calcutta ; and we have alſo given a " Commiſſion to Lieutenant-General John Clavering, conſtituting him " Commander in Chief of all our Forces in India ; and it is our pleaſure, " that the particular powers veſted in our ſaid Governor-General and " Military Commander in Chief reſpectively, under the authority of the " Com-

" Commiſſions granted them by the Company, ſhall be exerciſed in the " manner, and to the extent herein after-mentioned, and not otherwiſe."

The Governor's Military Commiſſion limits his authority as Commander in Chief to the Fort and Garriſon of Fort St. George, and the Town of Madraſs-Patnam; and of all the Forces which now are, or hereafter ſhall be employed for the ſaid United Company within the ſaid Fort, Garriſon, and Town.

The Commiſſion of Sir Robert Fletcher appoints him Commander in Chief of the Forces of the United Company on the Coaſt of Coromandel.

When the terms of the two Commiſſions are compared, and the manner and extent of their powers conſidered, as declared in the Inſtructions, it muſt, I am perſuaded, appear to you, Gentlemen, that the vote of the 25th of March laſt in the Madraſs Council, reſolving, that the Governor ſhould hold the ſame authority in all the other Forts on that Coaſt as in Fort St. George, and the exerciſe he actually did make of thoſe powers at Tanjore, was an uſurpation of your authority to cancel and ſuperſede one of the moſt publick and ſolemn acts of your Honourable Court.

As the office and duties of the Commander in Chief on the Coaſt muſt remain ſuſpended 'till your commands are received, I muſt beg you will be pleaſed to ſend ſuch orders as will enforce obedience to the reſpective Commiſſions, according to the preſent Inſtructions, or with ſuch other limitations as you may think proper to give them.

Extract of Fort St. George Military Conſulations, 20th Auguſt, 1776; received by the Grenville, the 25th of April, 1777.

Extract of Letter from the Commander in Chief,

Letter from the Commander in Chief, reſpecting Batta to the Troops.

To the Right Honourable the Preſident, &c. Council of Fort St. George.

My LORD and GENTLEMEN,

Being prevented, through indiſpoſition, from attending the Council this day, I beg leave to lay before the Board the two papers enloſed, No. 1. containing

containing a comparative view of the ſick in hoſpitals by the returns of the 1ſt Battalion, 2d European regiment now doing duty in Fort St. George for the laſt ſix months, and a ſtate of that Battalion for an equal ſpace of time while at Pondamalee.

The other paper (No. 2) which I beg leave to lay before the Board, contains the ſtate of a Subaltern Officer's expenſes abſolutely neceſſary to his exiſtence; it ſhews the impoſſibility of appearing ſuitable to his character, unleſs the late additional allowance from the chance of half batta in certain garriſons be reſtored.

Colonel Stuart, who took pains to make particular enquiries on this ſubject, has put his name to the encloſed paper; and I dare ſay the Board will find the facts to be juſtly ſtated. The Board moſt probably did not ſee it in this light, when they were pleaſed to order the half batta to be ſtruck off in February laſt; and for my own part I am obliged in truth to confeſs, that my aſſent was an haſty compliance with the earneſt requeſt of the Preſident, though he did not appriſe me of his intention, nor conſult me on the ſubject, previous to his making the motion at the Board. I hope, and moſt earneſtly recommend, a reconſideration of this matter, for it appears upon enquiry to be immediately connected with the health of the Officers, many of whom, I am informed, are at preſent deprived of the means of ſubſiſting themſelves, or appearing in publick ſuitable to their ſtations.

I have the honour to be,

My LORD and GENTLEMEN,

Choultry-Plain, Your moſt obedient, and moſt humble ſervant,

Monday, 19th Auguſt, 1776.

ROB. FLETCHER.

Fort St. George,——Auguſt, 1776.

From Colonel Stuart to the Commander in Chief, with ſtatement of a Subaltern's expenſes.

State of an Enſign's neceſſary Expenſes for one month, ſuppoſing three Enſigns to form one meſs, having ſervants in common, and proviſions, &c. at the medium rate of the principal garriſons occupied by the forces under the Preſidency of Madraſs, viz.

To the Expenſes of the meſs for proviſions, liquor, &c. Pices	8	21
Servants wages - - - - - -	2	0
Waſhing and dreſſing linen - - - -	0	36
Barber and hair-dreſſer - - - -	1	0
Each Officer for one month	12	15 is
For one year Pagodas	148	12

Extra Expenſes for one Year.

	Pagodas	
For one regimental coat - - -	15	20
Two ditto frocks - - - -	24	
Two hats - - - - - - -	5	
Eighteen ſhirts - - - - -	15	
Shoes - - - - - - -	8	
Stockings - - - - - -	15	
Stocks and handkerchiefs - - -	4	
Breeches - - - - - - -	9	
Waiſtcoats - - - - - -	13	
Cooley Taylor - - - - - -	5	

Total Extra Expenſes for one year -		112	20
Total neceſſary Expenſes for one year		260	32
The pay of an Enſign for one year - - Pices	230		
Deficiency to make good the neceſſary Expenſe	30 32		
		260	32
The pay of a Lieutenant is - -	320		

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In the foregoing calculation, no allowance is made either for the firſt coſt or breakage of Meſs utenſils. The officers are ſuppoſed to drink no other liquor than that of the country, or Sherbet. There is no allowance made for wine, even in caſe of ſickneſs; and the means are totally wanting to buy or to maintain either palanquin or horſe amongſt the three, although exerciſe is as eſſentially neceſſary to preſerve the officer's health as the nouriſhment he takes.

The ſubaltern officers of the army, as I am informed, formerly found no difficulty in raiſing the money neceſſary to help them out in the garriſons, in which no half batta was allowed, becauſe in the courſe of two or three years at moſt, it fell to their lot to be ſtationed in places where, by the allowance of half batta, they were enabled to ſave as much as to diſcharge debts neceſſarily incurred.

I am alſo informed, that the Company's proportion of the general expenſe of half batta amounts only to 9000 Pagodas per annum; ſuppoſing then the preceding to be a juſt ſtate of an Officer's expenſes abſolutely neceſſary, it appears that no ſubaltern on this eſtabliſhment, is able, with the greateſt frugality, to live upon his pay, he muſt therefore run in debt, or be obliged to his friends (beſides the time he may have ſerved as a cadet) for ten or twelve years before, in the common courſe of the ſervice, he can attain the rank of Captain; and although it may be ſaid, that the Field Officers and Captains may live upon their pay after they arrive at theſe ranks, yet it is preſumed, it never was the intention of our Honourable Employers, that an Officer ſhould be under the neceſſity of borrowing money for ten or twelve years, or that in the higher ranks they ſhould be entirely deprived of the means to lay up ſome part of their allowance for ſupporting them in old age, or when, from bodily ſickneſs or decay they are unfit to ſerve the Honourable Company.

I have done my utmoſt to inform myſelf impartially on this ſubject: in my ſituation, you know, Sir, I can have no private view in it's ſucceſs farther than the general good of the ſervice; neither is it at the requeſt of any of the officers, who, ſo far as I can ſee, think it their duty in ſilence to ſubmit to every order of their ſuperiors.

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The gentlemen who furnished me with the information do not know even the use I meant to make of it, which is to request of you, Sir, for the above reasons, and as essentially contributing to the preservation of the health and spirits of the officers in this climate, to take such steps as you shall think necessary to bring this affair under the reconsideration of the Board, in hopes that upon a review and further information, they may perhaps think it proper to restore the allowance of half batta in certain garrisons as formerly.

To Brigadier General
Sir Robert Fletcher, &c. &c.

JAMES STUART.

Ordered to lie upon the table.

Letter from the Nabob of Arcot, dated 25th September, 1776.

Received from Mr. Macleane, the 31st March, 1777.

His Highness the Nabob Wallajau, Ummeer ul Hind, Omdat ul Mulk, Ausuph ul Dowlah, Unweer ud Deen Cawn Behauder, Zuphur Jung, Sepah Salaur, Subahdar of the Carnatick.

To the Honourable the Chairman and Directors of the United Company of Merchants trading to India.

When I did myself the pleasure of writing to you last (which was on the 12th and 25th February) I informed you of the readiness with which I received a garrison of your troops into the fort of Tanjore, knowing such a measure to be agreeable to you, who ever have been, and who, by the blessing of God, ever will continue to be my best friends. I likewise represented to you, that seeing the orders which you sent hither about Tuljagee, and his restoration to the Government of the Tanjore country, must have proceeded from your want of proper information; I would therefore take care in future to give you regularly and fully every information on the subject of our mutual affairs.

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Was I, in consequence of this resolution, to write you now all that has passed since the writing of my last letter, great would be your sorrow for the sufferings of your oldest and truest friend. In judging of the friendship with which you regard me, and of course the uneasiness which you would feel for my unjust sufferings, I have two unerring guides to direct my judgment; the first is, a warm remembrance of the interest which from the beginning you have taken in my prosperity and happiness; the second is, the approbation of my own heart, which empowers me to declare, that in no one instance, from the day we began the journey of friendship together to this hour, have I ever strayed from the path of steady attachment to my best friends, or ever will, and of true affection for the whole English nation. As a man moved by his own and the passions of others, I may have often felt the conduct of your representatives in too disagreeable a li ht, and may have expressed my sense of it as such, as some of their proceedings appeared to me improper; but as a prince placing his dependence upon your faith, and the security of the English alliances, I can appeal to my God, that I have never felt any distrust in my mind, nor swerved in any degree from the resolution I early adopted, that of rising or falling with the sun of your fortune in Hindostan. After the long series of mixed fortune which we had undergone together, a prospect opened to me at length that filled my soul with the gladness of hope, and which of itself was sufficient to bind my attachment most unalterably and for ever to the English: I saw not only my sons arrive at maturity, but even their children promising further hopes: I brought up my children so much in the friendship of the English, that they can never depart from it: how great must my happiness have been in reflecting, that no power remained in the Carnatick but that of the English, and my family under the protection of the English and our rights. In this situation, the chief occupation of my mind was forming a plan, which, with the approbation of his Majesty and the Company, would for ever secure to my posterity the friendship of the English, and which would establish such a well secured interest in this country, that neither the power of France nor that of all the Hindostan Governments could ever endanger our possession of the country.

It is my warmest wish to attend particularly to two things;—First, the friendship of the Company and the English nation, which I regard above every thing, and which I am entitled to by the loss of my father and his fortune

tune in their alliance, as also by spending my youth and treasury with them; Secondly, as the friendship and alliance of the Company and the English nation exist with me, so should they with my children, and whatever power I should appoint to my sons, and whatever plan I should form in regard to them, should be confirmed to them through the favour and assistance of the gentlemen of the Company; and none of the English subjects or Company's servants should interfere therein. I am, without doubt, the firmest and most useful friend to the Company in India, and whatever I fix for my sons shall be with a view to preserve the tranquillity of the Carnatick, and the present and future advantage of the Company, and the publick safety.

That the forming and bringing to effect such a plan, equally for the security of your future interest and that of my family, was my greatest and sole ambition, some of your chief and ablest servants were well informed. How could I better employ my attention as a prince, an ally, and a father? Thus were my thoughts employed from the beginning, and especially from the time Tanjore was reduced, and an enemy of the Carnatick thereby, in my opinion, removed, who never would be quiet 'till he had either ruined the peace of the Carnatick, or his own power. Soon after the reduction of Tanjore, the disputes with the Dutch, and the threatened invasion of the Marattas, employed my attention: afterwards such disputes arose among your servants here as rendered it impossible for me, during that period of party and misrepresentation to address you. Not 'till the arrival of Lord Pigot did these disputes cease entirely in their effect; judge then, my friends, what a shock my heart must have felt on understanding from his Lordship the business on which he came; in one hour I saw the labour of my whole life, the honours of my alliance with the English, exposed to the most public disgrace, my enemies raised to the most unmerited power, and the thorn of our mutual destruction planted in the garden, in the clearing of which our joint labours have been employed for upwards of thirty-five years. What I felt upon this occasion, that power can alone know, who sees the inside of the human soul; but in this hour of extremity I testified to you and to the world the most unshaken firmness of friendship, and the firmest dependence upon the ultimate justice of the Company: to recite to you, step by step, the measures which were adopted by Lord Pigot, to violate your sacred engagements for the protection of my country, my person, and

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my honour, would be a heavy task, and such as the present low situation of Lord Pigot would render painful to my mind; it is sufficient that I have acquainted your servants at Bengal, and that they will inform you. What have I done to be thus treated? is there one single act of my conduct that can be fairly placed in the scale against me as a reason for such injuries? Finding the innumerable difficulties amidst which I was thrown, and considering that in attempting to extricate myself, I might only commit some error contrary to my old friendship to the Company, I thought it better to permit Lord Pigot to do as he pleased, and to reserve to myself only the right of representation: this was all the opposition made by me to even the most violent acts of his Lordship's oppression; by this conduct I hope not only to merit your approbation, but to obtain from you public redress for every injustice that has been done me. You will now see very clearly how necessary it is for you to draw a line of protection and security round my rights and privileges, to prevent the future ill conduct of any of your governing servants. It appears to me likewise, that from the violence that has prevailed in the Councils of your servants, it becomes not me to give my opinion relative to their internal disputes; this is a business, of which you alone are the proper judges; I have neither right nor wish to interfere in it, therefore I do not meddle with it; it is sufficient for me to observe, that I am continually unhappy when there are such disputes. For promoting the advantage and prosperity of your affairs, and the tranquillity of the Carnatick and the public safety, I have and ever will assist your Representatives the Government here; they have confirmed to me your promises of friendship, therefore I hope our mutual business will flourish. It is well known, that your orders in regard to Tanjore were given in consequence of groundless reports that prevailed in England, and from your not being informed of the real state of affairs here: and though Lord Pigot, when he arrived at Madrass, plainly perceived that matters had been misrepresented, and though I told him so, and requested him verbally, and by letter (after representing to him the true state of affairs) to wait your further orders, and not to destroy the rights of your old friend, he gave no attention to me; it was unnecessary for his Lordship to have proceeded as he did, when he plainly saw that matters had been misrepresented; but his seizure of the crop that was on the grounds, and which I had sowed and cultivated at an immense expense, was an act that could never be warranted; and unless you give orders to restore me the Tanjore country, which is my right, I shall never be able

able to pay my debts, or to clear my affairs of embarrassment. The business of leaving such a large sum of money as the revenues of Tanjore in the hands of the Rajah, who is disencumbered by his situation of debt or any great publick expense, while the rest of the Carnatick can hardly pay the interest of it's debts incurred by taking Tanjore, is a piece of ruinous injustice, and totally contrary to the good sense of your orders about Tanjore in 1769. Tulgajee will certainly employ the revenues in getting the Marattas, the French, or the Dutch, to extricate him from the hands of the English; your shewing such favour to him (after the many attempts he has made to destroy the peace of the Carnatick) is just as bad as shewing favour to the French, the Dutch, or Hyder Ally. You will hear probably from Colonel Upton, your Vakeel at Poona, what he has discovered of the conduct of Tulgajee's emissaries there ever since Lord Pigot's restoration of him. I inform you of it as a certainty, which will soon shew itself clearly, that he has likewise renewed his old connexions with the Dutch; but why should I write you on this subject now? I am confident, that in consequence of my former representations to you of my rights and distresses, you must have long before now repealed the orders, which Lord Pigot often told me he had obtained from you by his own influence, but which you cannot but disapprove of, on the least consideration of the purposes for which they were obtained. I am ready at all times to give the Rajah a sufficient maintainance, and every security for himself and his family's protection. There are many others of my subjects in my dominions possessed of rights and antiquity superior to Tulgajee: I never molest them, and it is well known with what tenderness I treat them, while they do not attempt independence of my authority.

Next to the bad policy and injustice of violating publick engagements to your Allies, is certainly the bad faith of giving protection to any of the people that belong to your Allies, and who desert their masters; I have a heavy complaint to make on this subject, and I particularly request, you will give the strongest orders to your Servants not to interfere with my jurisdiction over my own people, nor to interfere in the affairs of my Family, or Internal Government.

I have fully explained my situation to your faithful Servants at Bengal, and have now laid my inmost thoughts before you; what remaineth for me then, but to place my whole dependence in your justice and support,

and

and to renew to you my declaration of this truth, which is, that while I live my attachment and that of my Family ſhall remain unalterably ſtrong towards my beſt Friends, the Company, and the whole Engliſh Nation.

What can I ſay more ?

Given at Chepauk, Sept. 25th, 1776.

P. S. I encloſe for your information a copy of the laſt Letter which the Governor of Madraſs has ſent me : it encloſed a copy of the Reſolutions of the Governor-General and Council, which I likewiſe ſend.

From the day of Lord Pigot's arrival to his being depoſed, the time that ſhould have been employed in promoting the buſineſs of the Company and me, and eſtabliſhing the tranquillity of the Carnatick, was ſpent in diſputes and diſagreements amongſt your Servants. After his Lordſhip had finiſhed the Tanjore buſineſs, I told him, that what he had done was contrary to my rights, and that I would make my repreſentations fully to the Company, and expect juſtice from England; that he ought then to give his attention to the buſineſs of the Company, and the advantage of the Carnatick and publick affairs ; but his Lordſhip gave no attention to any thing, except to carrying on ſuch buſineſs as anſwered his own purpoſes, and which he had planned in England, and came here to execute. I am the firſt and firmeſt friend to the Company in India, and I conſider our proſperity and adverſity as mutual; and every thing which I think for the advantage of your affairs and the Carnatick I always lay before your Repreſentatives here. In the Government of Mr. Wynch, I acquainted him by letter with the intention of Hyder Ally Cawn to conquer the Cudapor Country, dependent upon the Carnatick, and alſo the Countries of Adony, Humoul, and that of Morarow. They had applied to me, and informed me, that if the Company and I would aſſiſt them, they and their Troops would always be attached to us in good and bad fortune : this I laid before Mr. Wynch, and told him, that if he would comply with it, I would ſend a Garriſon of my Troops to Cudapor; that Bazalet Jung, Phouſdar of Adony, Manour Cawn, Phouſdar of Humoul, Morarow, a friend of the Company, and the Zemindars in thoſe parts, could aſſemble troops to the amount of twelve thouſand horſe, and fifteen or

twenty thousand Seapoys, and would join us without any expense to us; that those Troops, with the Company's and mine, would be capable of keeping Hyder Ally in awe, and preventing him from raising troubles or adding to his power, and that he would be thereby obliged to be subject to our orders.

After Lord Pigot's arrival here, Hyder Ally formed an alliance with the Phousdar of Cudapor, defeated Bazalet Jung's Troops, and marching against the Fort of Guttee, where Morarow resided, he invested it; and though I applied to his Lordship to write to Hyder Ally that Morarow was included in a treaty of alliance with the Company, and that he should not attack him, his Lordship would not comply; therefore the Fort and Country of Morarow fell into Hyder Ally's hands, and he himself was made prisoner, and carried in the most disgraceful manner to Serringapatam, where he has received, and now receives, every kind of dishonour and injury. Now that Hyder Ally has got possession of the Country of Morarow, and in fact governs Cudapor, Cumoul, and Adony, there is no end of his arrogance; and he is daily employed in largely encreasing his Troops and Military Stores: he has wrote to France, requesting a considerable number of Troops to be sent to him, and offering to pay for them; and he has also prevailed on the Governor of Negapatam to write to Batavia for the same purpose. His sole intention is to raise disturbances in the Carnatick, and to destroy the English. A number of his Troops are assembled towards Dindegul, near Madura, which is part of my Country, and in the district of Jugdee, which is in the neighbourhood of the Fort of Ambore and Vellore, belonging to me.

To be able to oppose Hyder Ally, it is necessary that the Company should have Cavalry; seeing this, I raised some regiments, but from the bad air in this county many of the horses died, therefore I used every year to buy others, for compleating the regiments at the feast of Tripety, which is in my country, where the dealers used to bring their horses to sell; but from Hyder Ally's interfering in the Cudapor Country, and posting his people in all the roads leading to Tripety, and even within three coss of it, he forcibly stops all the horses, and sends them into his own country: he also stops the merchants; therefore it is very difficult for me to get either horses, camels, or gold cloths. My regiments now want many horses, and I cannot supply them. It is the intention of Hyder Ally Cawn to overpower the English, by having a large body of horse, and by not letting us have any. As I am a true friend to you, gentlemen, I write thus fully for your information, and hope for the peace of the Carnatick and the prosperity of my affairs from your friendship and assistance.

Extract of a Letter from the Rajah of Tanjore, dated 7th May, 1776.

Iſhaventarow, who had been in my ſervice, fled to Hyder's Country after this fort was taken; when he heard that your Lordſhip had been pleaſed to re-eſtabliſh me in my Dominions, he aſked Hyder's permiſſion to return hither. Hyder deſired him to carry a Letter, together with a preſent of a dreſs, and ſome horſes for me; Iſhaventarow told him, that if he went as his Vackeel he could obey his commands with propriety, but not otherwiſe. Hyder told him, that he muſt at all events carry a Letter, which he did, and preſented it to me; it is encloſed for your Lordſhip's peruſal, and I wait your orders concerning it.

Tranſlation of a Letter from Hyder Ally to the Rajah of Tanjore.

I received with great pleaſure the accounts of your reſtoration from my Vackeel at Madraſs; ſix months before you loſt Tanjore I frequently wrote you of your approaching danger, but I have not been able to learn whether you thought my advice worthy of attention. It was your fate that theſe things ſhould happen: however, by the favour of the Almighty your kingdom has been reſtored to you. The Europeans have ſhewn you great marks of friendſhip and regard; you muſt therefore abide by their advice, and they will continue to aſſiſt you.

Iſhaventarow took up his reſidence here ſome time; he is very deſirous to return to you. When he ſignified his intention to me, I gave him leave to depart. He is a man of family, and your ſervant, and will inform you of every thing relating to this Country.

Let me hear of your welfare that I may rejoice.—What can I ſay more?

THE END.